

## Israeli-Arab MK awaits Iraqi reply

AMMAN (R) — An Israeli Arab member of Knesset (MK) waited in Jordan on Saturday for Iraq to let him and a delegation of fellow Israelis visit Baghdad. Talab Al Samaa, who represents the Arab Democratic Party in the Knesset, told Reuters he wanted to visit Iraq to express solidarity with the Iraqi people impoverished by four years of Gulf crisis sanctions. "We are here in Jordan making diplomatic contacts to get a positive reply from Iraq to our party's request for a visit despite the opposition of the Israeli government," Mr. Samaa said. "There is a U.N. embargo decision which at this stage, and in these conditions, is unfair. It is our moral duty to express solidarity with the Iraqi people," he added. He refused to elaborate on the nature of the contacts. Iraqi embassy officials in Amman declined any comment. Iraq and Israel have vehemently denied reports that they have had secret contacts on opening a dialogue on future ties. Party leader Abdul Wahab Al Darwashi sent Iraq a letter via its U.N. mission in New York last month asking if party members, dignitaries and Iraqi-born Israeli Jews could visit.

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## Al Hassan meets with Arab League chief

NEW YORK (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Saturday met with Arab League Secretary General Ismat Abdul Meguid and exchanged with him views on issues to be discussed by the Arab foreign ministers in their meetings to be held in Cairo on Oct. 1. The meeting was attended by Jordan's Permanent Representative at the United Nations Adnan Abu Odeh, his deputy Fuad Al-Batayneh and Arab League Representative at the U.N. Mahmoud Ahlu Nasir. Mr. Hassan arrived in New York Thursday to head the Jordanian delegation at the meetings of the 19th session of the U.N. General Secretariat.

## Syria rejects Golani referendum

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria said Saturday a proposed referendum to determine if Israel should withdraw from the "Golan Heights would lead to a new impasse in peace negotiations." Talking about a referendum is a new means to plunge the peace process into a new maze," the government daily *Al Thawra* said in an editorial. "It is a total defiance of the whole world when Israel links U.N. Security Council resolutions to the Israelites' desire to withdraw or not." Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has pledged to submit a land-for-peace deal to a referendum. Polls show that while most Israelis favour a compromise, a solid majority still opposes total withdrawal.

## Two Iraqi officers killed in blast

AMMAN (AFP) — Two Iraqi officers were killed and 12 soldiers wounded in an explosion in Baghdad earlier this month which may have been a deliberate attack. Iraqi opposition parties said in a statement received here Saturday. The Iraqi National Congress (INC), which groups several opposition parties, said a grenade had exploded during intelligence services training session supposed to have been carried out with mock grenades. The intelligence unit's commander, Hashim Zubaidi, was one of those killed in the explosion which happened at a military college in the capital on Sept. 8, the INC statement said.

## Iranian forces stage manoeuvres near Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian special forces and other military units backed by armed helicopters launched a five-day military exercise Saturday near Tehran, Iran's state-run radio reported. The broadcast said the "operational and training exercises" was held near the Amir Kabir Dam in outside Karaj, about 25-40 kilometres west of the Iranian capital. The radio said some 2,000 commandos, along with amphibious units and helicopters, were taking part in the exercise.

## Airbus in steep, dive over Orly

PARIS (R) — An Airbus A310 jet of the Romanian airline Tarom tumbled into a brief steep dive near Paris' Orly airport on Saturday before the pilot managed to regain control and make a normal landing, eye-witnesses said. Airport officials said there was no damage to the plane, carrying 173 passengers and 11 crew, which landed at Orly on a flight from Bucharest at about one p.m. (1100 GMT). "Everybody was scared. We thought the plane was going to crash on the town. Everybody was shouting," Lucien La Grante, mayor of the nearby town of Villeneuve St. Georges, told France-Info radio.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية العربية - الراي

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YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

## Abdul Meguid ready to seek Arab reconciliation if Iraq meets condition



Abdul Meguid

CAIRO (Agencies) — The head of the Arab League said in an interview published Saturday he would be willing to visit Baghdad to work for reconciling Iraq with other Arab states but only after specific steps by the Iraqi government.

Arab League Secretary-General Ismat Abdul Meguid said he first wanted assurances his trip would lead to Iraq freeing Kuwaiti prisoners of war (PoWs). Kuwait says more than 600 Kuwaitis are still missing after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"I am ready to go to Iraq to take some of those PoWs out with me," he told the government daily *Al Akhbar*. "I am ... saying that we hope Iraq will take a humanitarian initiative soon regardless of other conditions."

"I will go immediately to visit Baghdad if I can guarantee any of this," he added.

Dr. Abdul-Meguid's comments follow reports — and denials — of an Egyptian effort to end the split between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and other Arab leaders.

Earlier this week, President Hosni Mubarak repeated his denial that he was trying to mediate between Iraq and Gulf states such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Iraq had spread the rumor of a mediation effort, Mr. Mubarak said.

The split among Arab states — between those that backed Iraq in the Gulf war and those who supported the U.S.-led coalition which liberated Kuwait — is still bitter three years later.

Dr. Abdul Meguid urged Iraq to accept all U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Gulf war as a step towards ending sanctions against Iraq.

"I believe this is in Iraq's interest because it is in its interest that the embargo would be lifted as soon as possible," he said.

The sanctions were extended for another two months on Sept. 14.

## Arafat to press Rabin on Palestinian elections

GAZA (Agencies) — Palestinian officials said on Saturday their self-rule authority wanted elections held in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank on Nov. 1 and this issue would dominate talks on Sunday between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The Palestinians say the elections will be for a body with power to pass laws as well as run day to day life in the self-rule areas.

"Palestinians have set a target date for elections on Nov. 1 and the Israelis are trying to delay this," said Abdul Aziz Haj Ahmad, communications head in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), after its weekly session in Gaza.

Israel says the elections have been delayed because the Palestinians are demanding the elected body has sovereignty which goes beyond the secret deal reached by the two sides in Oslo last year.

In the meeting with Mr. Rabin, Mr. Arafat will insist that elections be held as quickly as possible, said members of the PNA who now run the autonomous areas.

"We will tell Rabin that the Palestinian intention is to hold elections in November this year," Zakaria Al Agha, the housing minister, told reporters after the weekly session.

The Palestinians want a 100-member body with full legislative powers, while the Israelis say only a smaller council with executive functions is permitted under the autonomy accord.

The Palestinians have accused Israel of using the dispute over the elections as a ploy to stall on troop redeployment in the West Bank. "Palestinian elections are going to be an issue of high

priority. They will top the agenda of the talks with Mr. Rabin tomorrow," local government head Sach Erekat said.

Palestinian and Israeli officials said the Rabin-Arafat talks would take place at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) at the Erez crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel.

"We hope the meeting tomorrow will produce genuine results because if the Israelis continue trying to obstruct elections, I think Mr. Rabin is putting the whole (peace) agreement in jeopardy," Dr. Erekat added.

Israel withdrew from most of the Gaza Strip and from the West Bank enclave of Jericho in May, handing them over to the PLO.

Under the Israeli-PLO peace accord signed in Washington a year ago, elections were due to take place in the self-rule areas and in the rest of the West Bank last July.

Dr. Erekat accused Israel of placing bureaucratic obstacles in the path of Palestinian elections.

"They (the Israelis) have not handed us population records, they are not allowing us to conduct surveys, to divide districts and now they are threatening if we open regional election offices to close them," he said.

He said Mr. Arafat had sent letters to U.S. President Bill Clinton, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the prime ministers of 16 European countries and Japan "which he explains to them obstacles facing us and urges them to help with elections."

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told Israel Television: "The problem is that Palestinians are making demands which exceed Oslo including the election of a large number of people in the framework of a legislature and not in the framework of a council as we

agreed."

Dr. Erekat rejected this.

"The DoP (declaration of principles signed in Washington last September) specifies very clearly that the Palestinian council will have a legislative and executive nature, so we are not inventing things," he said.

Israel wants to transfer control of health, social welfare, taxation and tourism in all of the West Bank to the PLO before elections are held, but says it needs assurances that funds are available to cover costs.

Dr. Erekat said: "We can have negotiations and elections and (Israeli troop) redeployment all at once so we can reach the election date before the end of this year."

He said the PLO and Israel were due to resume self-rule talks on Wednesday at a location yet to be announced.

Israeli officials have denied allegations of foot-dragging, although Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres reportedly favours a faster pace than Mr. Rabin in planning elections and redeploying troops.

Israeli media reports have said Mr. Rabin and his key military advisers are in no rush to redeploy, fearing the pullout would heighten the risk of confrontation between Palestinian militants and Jewish settlers.

Some 120,000 West Bank settlers live in the West Bank and the army chief of staff, Ehud Barak, has said protecting them in phase two of autonomy would be a very difficult task.

In the meeting with Mr. Arafat, Mr. Rabin is expected to demand that Palestinian police in the autonomous areas do more to catch and disarm militants opposed to the peace accord. Members of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups have said they would continue attacking Israelis.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has said they would continue attacking Israelis.

## Crown Prince returns home; will address U.N. assembly next week

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned home late Saturday after a working visit to the United Kingdom and a several-day private visit to France.

Prince Hassan, who was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, was received by His Majesty King Hussein, Royal family members, Prime Minister Abdal Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the King's advisors, the Crown Prince's advisor and senior government and army officials.

The Iraqi regime is responsible for the continuation of punishment that is hurting the Iraqi people," he told the government daily *Al Ahram*.

Iraqi Trade Minister Mahdi Saleh said in remarks published in Qatar Saturday Iraq's trade partners have lost almost \$64 billion as a result of the four-year U.N. embargo on Baghdad.

"These countries have in the last four years lost nearly \$64 billion, representing the value of their trade with Iraq," Mr. Saleh was quoted as saying by the *Al Ray'a* daily.

He complained that "trade agreements between Iraq and several countries remained frozen."

Mr. Saleh denounced the embargo as unjust and contrary to international law.

In April Mr. Saleh said that Iraq's suppliers had lost \$55 billion because of the U.N. embargo which bans all trade with Iraq except food and medicine.

The sanctions were extended for another two months on Sept. 14.



His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday receives His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who returned home after a working visit to Britain and a private visit to France (Petra photo)

address at the United Nations General Assembly meeting next week, said work on setting up this committee could be the focal point in his talks in the U.S.

Asked about the content of his next address at the U.N. since his address last year dealt with Islam and the way the West and the

world view it, Prince Hassan said: "I think that in the middle of next month there is an important date — which is examining the degree of commitment of the international community towards the issue of Bosnia.

"I think that when talking about the view towards Islam and Muslims, we have to take into consideration, as we prepare for the Islamic summit in the beginning of next year, a host of issues, the most important amongst which is distinguishing between extremism on the one hand and what is called fundamentalism on the other.... I think that the tolerant Islamic religion and the international tendency to understand Islam is really a fundamental part of our meeting at the U.N., and later at the Islamic summit."

"Regarding the U.N. meeting at this time, I think that talk will focus on the 50th anniversary of establishing the U.N., the southern-Asian inclination for representation in international issues, the issues of security, the Security Council and its membership. These issues will be under discussion in this session," Prince Hassan said.

the soldiers' arrival.

The commander of the U.S. troops in Haiti, Hugh Shelton, met Gen. Cedras for a second time Friday to discuss the transfer of power in which Gen. Cedras will step down and allow President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to return from exile in the United States.

"U.S. military presence has brought out in forces who last week would have been hiding.

Since the bloody coup which toppled Mr. Aristide, the populist Catholic priest elected in a landslide, over 3,000 people are estimated to have been killed, many of them unarmed civilians.

"American," said the death toll another. The rebels, some holding banners, a symbol of the former president, chanted "we want Aristide" as they waved branches in the air.

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that is crucial to the long-term effort of restoring peace and stability and rebuilding the economy of Haiti," Mr. Perry said.

Haitian police, apparently responding to orders from U.S. military commanders to stop beating civilians after a man was clubbed to death Tuesday, did not intervene in the demonstration.

They landed at the Port-au-Prince International airport in a U.S. military aircraft.

Mr. Perry and Gen. Shalikashvili were scheduled to have lunch with troops aboard the aircraft carrier America lying offshore in the Caribbean and their visit Marins in Cap Haitien.

Close to 9,000 U.S. troops have landed in Haiti since Monday under an agreement with the country's de facto rulers that they would step down by Oct. 15 to avoid an invasion ordered by President Clinton.

They were due to return to the United States at the end of the day.

"The U.S. forces are here as friends and not as invaders," Mr. Perry said in a brief statement at the airport.

As Mr. Perry arrived, hundreds of Aristide supporters staged a demonstration in the Port-au-Prince harbour area, calling for Gen. Cedras to leave the country.

"The multinational team is now beginning to assemble,

## Perry, Shalikashvili visit Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry and General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived here Saturday to review the U.S. military operation to restore democracy in Haiti.

Haitian police, apparently responding to orders from U.S. military commanders to stop beating civilians after a man was clubbed to death Tuesday, did not intervene in the demonstration.

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## The visit of Malaysian trade delegation to Jordan Sept. 29 - Oct. 3

A trade delegation from Malaysia will be visiting Jordan from Sept. 29 - Oct. 3 1994. Members of the delegation are interested to meet Jordanian businessmen/entrepreneurs to discuss the possibilities of cooperation in the following areas:

1. Cooperation in the service industries including banking, insurance, tourism, shipping and forwarding, transportation, telecommunications and consultancy services.

2. Joint-ventures in property development, construction, mining, hotels and resorts development.

3. Trading.

4. Import of Malaysian products into Jordan including foodstuff, rubber products, plastic products, timber products, furniture, electronic and electrical products, office equipment, textile, household products, ceramic tiles, palm oil and palm oil products, iron and steel products, water treatment system and petroleum products.

A programme is being arranged for the members of the delegation to meet their counterparts from 0930-1200 hours on Sunday, Oct. 2; at Al Mukhtar Room, Inter-Continental Hotel, Amman.

Jordanian businessmen/entrepreneurs who are interested in the above are requested to make appointment by contacting any one of the following:

The Honorary Consulate of Malaysia  
Shame

# 2 Middle East News



**U.S.-PAK DEAL:** Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (right) and U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary hold a joint press conference following the signing of 16 energy deals worth about \$4 billion on Saturday. The U.S.

investments will be made in the fields of power generation and distribution, oil and gas exploration and mineral development (AFP photo)

## Egyptian paper argues for invading Sudan

**CAIRO (R)** — An Egyptian state newspaper said on Saturday that an Egyptian invasion of Sudan to overthrow the Khartoum government would be fully justified. Ibrahim Saada, editor-in-chief of the weekly newspaper *Akhbar Al Aman*, wrote in a front-page editorial that the Sudanese government had done much more against Egypt than the Haitian government had ever done against the United States.

The time had come for Egypt to call Sudanese rulers to account for their alleged misdeeds, rather than adopting the current policy of treating them with indulgence, he added.

"The Egyptian people have tolerated from the rulers of Sudan behaviour which I do not believe can be ignored ... it was high time long ago that they were responsible for it," he said.

If the big neighbour, the United States, rushed to save the people of Haiti from their corrupt rulers, it is Egypt's right to follow the example and strike hard to topple the Sudanese government to save its people and at the same time avenge insults directed at Egypt and the Egyptian people," he added.

"We have had enough insults, plotting and incitement from these dwarfs. They

should not understand that Egypt's tolerance towards the crimes and sins of the small is (a sign of) weakness or impotence," he said.

Mr. Saada gave a long list of alleged anti-Egyptian acts by the Khartoum government — expelling an educational mission, stealing the members' possessions, impounding an Egyptian ship and holding the passengers hostage, claiming the Haifa triangle on the border and training militants for acts of violence in Egypt.

In an interview published on Thursday, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said he still had no plans to take part in a war of words with the Sudanese government.

Foreign Minister Amr Musa, in an interview in the government newspaper *Al Ahram* on Saturday, said he expected to meet Sudanese Foreign Minister Hussein Suleiman Abu Saleh during the U.N. General Assembly in New York within a few days.

Sudan bad wanted Mr. Musa to make a visit to Khartoum but Mr. Musa said

Egypt refused when Sudan tried to block Egyptian membership of the preferential trade area in East Africa.

Mr. Saada said Egypt's dispute with the Islamist-dominated government in Khartoum was ideological in origin and he singled out Islamist leader Hassan Al Tourabi, spiritual leader of the Sudanese rulers, for complicating relations with Egypt.

He said there was increasing evidence that training camps for militants existed in Sudan, either with or without the knowledge of the Sudanese government.

But he added that there was still a chance that his meeting with Mr. Abu Saleh and other contacts might improve relations.

Egypt has made no sign of moving the diplomatic battle towards armed conflict, but the unusually strong statement by Mr. Saada — who sometimes voices the government's view — raises the level of rhetoric.

Mr. Saada compared Egypt and Sudan's situation to that of the United States and Haiti. He wrote that U.S. forces stepped in to "overthrow a dictator regime" and suggested Egypt could do the same basic against Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir and

Dr. Tourabi. "It is the right of the Sudanese people that Egypt — their big neighbour — follow the footsteps of the United States and aim painful blows at the regime of Al Bashir and Tourabi until overthrowing it," the column said.

Egyptian-Sudanese relations have worsened since the Gulf war when Egypt backed the U.S.-led coalition to drive Iraq from Kuwait and Sudan supported Iraq.

The conflict has focused on Halab — a traditional source of argument — and Egypt's charges that the Sudan government supports militants trying to impose Islamic law on Egypt.

Halab, a triangle along the Egyptian-Sudanese border, was defined within Egypt's territory under an 1899 British treaty, but Egypt gave administrative control to Sudan. The latest argument started in 1991 when Sudan sought to lease oil rights in the Red Sea Halab to a Canadian firm.

Lately, the argument has grown to include charges by both countries that their diplomats were being harassed and beaten in each other's capitals. Egypt also claims Sudan is seizing Egyptian property in Khartoum.

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## Egypt to mediate between Algeria, Morocco

**CAIRO (AFP)** — Egypt plans to act as mediator to defuse tension between Algeria and Morocco linked to the spread of Islamic fundamentalism in North Africa, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa has said.

"In the next few days I shall have talks with the Algerian and Moroccan foreign ministers aimed at containing the crisis" between the two neighbouring countries, Mr. Musa said in an interview published in Saturday's edition to the semi-official daily *Al Ahram*. He said the discussions would take place on the sidelines of the 49th U.N. General Assembly session which opened in New York Tuesday. Mr. Musa said he was "concerned" about the tension, which was "not uncon-

nected with the wave of (religious) extremism in North Africa, particularly in Algeria." After two Spanish tourists died in the bombing of a hotel in Marrakesh in August, Morocco imposed visa restrictions on Algerian citizens entering the country. Algeria responded by closing its land border with the kingdom. Morocco later implicated the Algerian security services in the bombing — a charge flatly denied by Algeria.

**Iran policy duplicitous.**

Mr. Musa also said Egypt and Iran will remain at odds until Iran deals straight with Egypt and other Arab countries.

Mr. Musa said Iran had been two-faced and had used

a double standard in its foreign policy.

Egypt and Iran worked together closely at the U.N. population conference in Cairo earlier this month, giving rise to speculation that relations could be on the mend.

But the Paris newspaper *Le Figaro* then published an interview in which Iranian President Ali Khamenei said Iran would never have diplomatic relations with Egypt.

Mr. Musa said the Iranian delegation leader in Cairo told him the interview took place before the conference.

"But all this in my opinion does not hide the fact that there is a duplicity in Iran's positions, which makes it difficult to reach an understanding and a stable and constant

agreement on Iranian matters," he added.

He said Iran was free to criticise the peace process between Israel and its Arab neighbours but it had no right to tell Arab countries how to rule themselves or what policies to adopt.

All the differences of opinion can be discussed without imposing any pre-conception," he added. "As long as this is the picture, as long as the double standard in Iranian policy remains, we are not in a hurry on this. We will wait."

Iran should also reconsider some of the policies towards Gulf Arab states "to put the equation straight," he said.

Egypt supports the United Arab Emirates in its dispute with Iran over three islands in the Gulf.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue ..... 630341

Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199

Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade ..... 617101

Blood Bank ..... 775121

Highway Police ..... 843402

Traffic Police ..... 896390

Public Security Department ..... 630321

Hotel Complaints ..... 605800

Price Complaints ..... 661176

Water and Sewerage

Complaints ..... 897467

Amman Municipality

Amman Municipality ..... 787111

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(diverse information) ..... 121

Overseas Calls ..... 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs ..... 623101

Abdul Telephone Repair ..... 661101

Jordan Television ..... 774111

Radio Jordan ..... 774111

Water Authority ..... 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority

815615

Electric Power

Company ..... 847632

Alquids pharmacy ..... 272032

Alquids pharmacy ..... (—)

Min-max temp.

Amman ..... 20/32

Aqaba ..... 25/38

Desert ..... 20/36

Jordan Valley ..... 26/38

Khalid pharmacy ..... 963417

Khalid pharmacy ..... 963417

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Germany fears Abu Nidal attacks

**HAMBURG (AFP)** — German authorities fear the Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal may be poised to carry out a string of attacks on Jewish interest in Germany, two weeklies, *Der Spiegel* and *Focus*, reported Saturday. According to a report in Monday's edition of *Der Spiegel*, security forces have evidence of attacks being planned on Jewish and Israeli institutions. German criminal investigation authorities (BKA) uncovered a fortnight ago correspondence from Abu Nidal indicating when and where the attacks would take place. The BKA told *Der Spiegel* the group wants to "strike on the day of a Jewish festival." The coming week sees the Jewish feast of tabernacles. *Focus* quoted the BKA as saying the group was plotting an attack on an El Al airlines plane flying from Berlin to Tel Aviv on Sunday. Security at Berlin-Schoenefeld airport was accordingly stepped up.

#### Iran urges observers for Tajikistan

**NICOSIA (R)** — Iran has urged the United Nations to send military observers to Tajikistan to monitor an agreement on a provisional ceasefire reached in Tehran between the Tajikistan government and opposition fighters. The Iranian news agency IRNA said on Saturday the call was made in a letter sent on Sept. 21 by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali. "I am pleased to announce that the political consultations in Tehran were quite fruitful and paved the way for the success of efforts aimed at peaceful resolution of crisis and establishment of durable peace in Tajikistan," the letter said. "In light of the sensitivity and importance of early restoration of peace and security to Tajikistan, I would hope to soon witness the dispatch of United Nations observers," it said.

#### One killed, 13 injured in Turkish blast

**ANKARA (AFP)** — One person was killed and 13 injured in a bomb blast at Mersin on Turkey's Mediterranean coast, police said Saturday. The device went off late Friday some 50 metres from the town's main square where about 15,000 people had gathered to attend a concert. Police said the fragmentation bomb had been equipped with a timer device. It had been concealed in a cold drinks dispenser. A 20-year-old woman died after undergoing surgery for injuries she suffered in the blast. A further 11 people were discharged from hospital following treatment, police said. Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

#### Libya holds Greek ship, captain

**TUNIS (R)** — Libyan authorities are holding a Greek ship and its captain because the vessel once flew the Israeli flag, the Greek ambassador in Tripoli said on Saturday. The ship *Vergina*, owned by the Stability Line Inc of Greece, docked at Tripoli port on Sept. 11. The Libyan authorities arrested the captain a few days later on the charge that he had broken Libya's boycott of Israel. Greek Ambassador Elias Dimitrakopoulos told Reuters by telephone that the ship had not been legally arrested. "The captain is in the hands of Libyans justice but the 80-member crew is free to leave the country. The case is to go before the Libyan courts, and I am confident...they will clear the case," Mr. Dimitrakopoulos said. He said the 80 crew members, all but two of whom are Greek citizens, are expected to be repatriated next week. Mr. Dimitrakopoulos said the ship was being held because it was originally built in 1964 for an Israeli company. The vessel was bought by a Saudi owner and flew the Saudi flag before it was sold to the present owners.

#### Canada minister to discuss jet sales in Saudi

**DUBAI (R)** — Canada's Defence Minister David Collenette will discuss possible sales of Canadian commercial aircraft to Saudi Arabia on a visit to the kingdom this week, a Canadian embassy official said on Saturday. Saudi is spending \$6 billion to \$7 billion on new aircraft for its fleet, mostly from U.S. firms Boeing Co and McDonnell Douglas. Details of the order have not yet been announced. "Saudi hasn't made a decision on a smaller commuter plane and the regional jet will be one of the things the minister will discuss," Vice-Consul Vicki Koundakjian told Reuters by telephone from Riyadh. The 50-seater jet is made by Bombardier Incorporated's Canadair division. ("Collenette") is going to Saudi Arabia to discuss a wide range of bilateral and multilateral issues," Mr. Koundakjian said, adding that the issues included the Middle East peace process and U.N. peacekeeping operations in the region.

#### Verdicts soon for 44 suspects in Egypt

**CAIRO (AFP)** — Civilian courts will issue verdicts next week against 44 Islamic militants, including 11 accused of robbing a Christian jewelry store to finance attacks, Egyptian newspapers said Saturday. Sentences against the militants who allegedly attacked and robbed a Coptic Christian store in Cairo in February 1991 will be handed down at the state security court in Banha just north of Cairo, the Al Gomhuriya daily said. One of the shop's clerks was shot and wounded in the attack and a prosecutor said the 11 could face the death penalty if convicted of attempted murder. On Thursday Cairo's state security court will pass sentences against 33 suspects charged with belonging to the Shawaytin group, one of the largest Muslim militant organisations, Al Gomhuriya added. The penalty for membership in an outlawed group is death. The suspected Shawaytin members are also being charged with planning terrorist attacks, armed robbery and possession of arms and explosives.

### Mideast peace boosts Bahrain's tourism hopes

**BAHRAYN (AP)** — This central Gulf state, seeking to bolster tourism once an Arab-Israeli peace settlement is achieved, wounded up a two-day conference on aviation and tourism with officials predicting big business ahead.

Without mentioning Israel by name, government ministers said they expect the peace process to give their planes a hefty boost.

"The opening up (of the region) will help us in promoting tourism, and aviation," Development and Industry Minister Yousef Al Shirawi told a news conference.

"There is no reason in the world that... it cannot be successful," he said. Information Minister Tariq Al Moayed, who is in charge of Bahrain's budding tourism industry.

"The opening up (of the region) will definitely create the climate for better tourism in Bahrain," said Information Minister Tariq Al Moayed, who is in charge of Bahrain's budding tourism industry.

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## Anani to sign debt write-off agreement



AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Saturday gave the go-ahead to the signing of an agreement with the U.S. to write off \$220 million of Jordan's total debts due to Washington estimated at \$702 million.

The Cabinet authorised Information Minister Jawad Anani, who is currently in the U.S., to sign the agreement.

It was Dr. Anani who announced last month that the U.S. would write off the \$20 million before the end of September. He spoke on Aug. 5, the day after the U.S. House of Representatives endorsed a compromise foreign aid bill that included a provision for debt relief for Jordan, saying that the rest of the Kingdom's debts to Washington would be deleted in 1995 and 1996.

Finance Minister Sami Gammah said the U.S. administration has pledged to write off all Jordan's debts to the United States.

He said also that the Cabinet has set up a delegation to travel to Paris and negotiate the rescheduling of the Kingdom's debts to France.

According to the statement, Michael Marib, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) will lead the team to the Paris talks.

Last month U.S. President Bill Clinton urged the Paris Club which includes France, to act as rapidly as possible to relieve Jordan's financial burden through bilateral debt forgiveness.

The Council of Ministers also Saturday decided to endorse an agreement on cooperation in administrative

fields with Tunisia. The agreement provides for the exchange of expertise and training of personnel.

The Cabinet authorised Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan to travel to Japan and attend the opening of the Osaka International Airport in November. Dr. Adwan will attend the ceremony along with 49 ministers of tourism from around the world.

The ministers also consented to Jordan joining an agreement on nuclear safety with the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and endorsed a trade protocol with Egypt which provides for increasing national goods to be exchanged between the two countries.

The Cabinet gave its consent also to Jordan's participation in the Babylon Cultural and Touristic Festival to be held in Iraq between Oct. 22 and 26. Two local folkloric troupes will participate in the coming festival.



Jordanian fresh produce on display at a German agricultural fair (file photo)

## Fresh produce marketers head for east Europe

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation led by Salem Lawzi, head of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Monday will head for Moscow on the first of visits to Russia, Poland and Latvia to discuss trade issues.

Dr. Lawzi told the Jordan Times Saturday that there are good prospects for Jordan to market its agricultural products to these countries.

"In our 12-day trip to the three countries, we plan to meet with officials in charge of imports as well as businessmen, and we intend to explore the local markets and their needs of agricultural products," said Dr. Lawzi.

Currently Jordan is sending shipments of agricultural products by air to western Europe countries and is exporting crops by land to countries of eastern Europe, said Dr. Lawzi who added that Jordan has not yet sold such products to the three countries on

his itinerary.

It is hoped that the visit will result in year-round sales of produce, not only winter crops which are produced in the Jordan Valley earlier than other regions, he said.

"We are seeking to open new markets for Jordan's exports in Europe despite strong competition from Spain and Portugal which sell agricultural products to countries of the European Union (EU), said Dr. Lawzi.

Jordan which is also seeking to expand its markets rather than relying heavily on markets of the Arab states, hopes to be able to penetrate fresh produce markets in Ukraine and other eastern European nations at a later stage, he added.

Several major Jordanian fruit and vegetable exporters along with the director of the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) are accompanying Dr. Lawzi on the trip.

## British businesses ready to expand area ventures

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The British government as well as business community are very interested in expanding trade relations with Jordan and stand ready for joint ventures and transfer of technology, a senior British official said Saturday.

Derek Hornby, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, was addressing a meeting with Jordanian businessmen.

"We are aware that British investment in Jordan is not of the expected level and that is why we are here," said Mr. Hornby, who is accompanied by a group of businessmen representing mostly companies dealing with water technology, pollution control and engineering consultancy services.

Addressing the meeting, organised by the Jordanian Businessmen's Association, Mr. Hornby said British businessmen were preoccupied with competition from Japan in the domestic British market as well as elsewhere in the mid and late 80s and hence were not able to focus on Jordan and other countries in the region.

In the early 90s, the preoccupation shifted to the requirements of the European Common Market, which came into being in 1992-93. Since then, Mr. Hornby said, the focus was shifting back to the regional markets, particularly the Middle East, now that peace and stability seem to be on their way to be restored to the region.

British businesses are not simply seeking to increase their exports to Jordan, he said.

"Exports give an impression of one losing and another gaining, and this is

not what we have in mind," he said, adding that possibilities exist for direct British investment in Jordan, for joint ventures and for "technology sharing."

Mr. Hornby noted that the delegation accompanying him was mostly made up of executives who represent major British companies specialised in water pumping, treatment and distribution, waste-water and sewerage treatment, civil and electrical contractors and engineering consultants.

He said he believed that in the post-peace era, water is one of the key sectors that would have major demands, given the scarcity of water in the region. This was the reason that prompted him to pick a delegation that had more to do with water and related areas, he said.

Many of the companies represented in the delegation have and are doing business in Jordan. These include Balfour Beatty, Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Partners, Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners — which is currently supervising the building of the Karameh Dam — Wimpey Engineering and Construction, Babcock Water Engineering and Unilever.

In addition to the possibilities that peace opens up in the Middle East, business with Iraq is also very much a consideration for British businessmen, said Mr. Hornby.

"Iraq is not going to remain under international sanctions forever," Mr. Hornby noted. He called for a pooling of "British-Jordanian skills" to be used in doing business with the Iraqi market.

Similarly, Jordanian businesses also offer an access to the Palestinian market in the occupied West



A visiting British businessmen's delegation Saturday discusses bilateral commerce with Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Smadi and officials from the ministry (Petra photo)

replied that British offers for consultancy services were highly competitive when compared with their European counterparts while they were indeed high when compared with Jordanian offers.

The businessmen also said that British companies preferred "associations" rather than "joint ventures" since the latter exposes them to liabilities in the host country if something goes wrong with the project.

Mr. Hornby promised to study the issues raised by Mr. Touqan.

British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliffe, who also attended the meeting, addressed the question of British firms not interested in doing joint business in the engineering sector in the Gaza Strip as cited by Mr. Touqan.

The main reason for such reluctance, Mr. Hinchcliffe said, was scepticism over the approach of the authorities in the occupied territories. "Who is calling the shots there?" he asked.

The ambassador, however, said that things would improve as the political process gets clearer.

At the same time, Mr. Hinchcliffe voiced confidence that British-Jordanian trade and economic relations could be strengthened since both sides were keen on developing them.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Hornby and the delegation accompanying him held talks with Mohammad Smadi, under-secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

It said discussions during the meeting covered economic dimensions of the Middle East peace process and the business environment in Jordan. It quoted Dr. Smadi as calling for a better balance of trade between Jordan and Britain.

Dr. Smadi explained to the delegation the various incentives and facilities offered by the Jordanian government to foreign investors.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Border crossing hours, bridge closing announced

AMMAN (J.T.) — According to regulations issued by Minister of Interior Saleh Hammad the southern border crossing point north of Aqaba will be opened from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. except for Fridays and Saturdays. Mr. Hammad said that visas are issued for third country nationals at the border crossing post. No member of the diplomatic missions accredited to either Jordan or Israel will be allowed to use the crossing in either direction except for those with special permits from the Foreign Ministry, and no vehicles from either side can travel in transit through the crossing point, said the statement. It said, however, that visitors who enter Jordan through the southern border crossing can exit the country through any other outlet including Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA). The King Hussein Bridge will be opened Monday until 10:00 a.m., according to an announcement Saturday by the Public Security Department (PSD). It said the bridge will remain closed Tuesday, Sept. 27 and re-open for regular travel the following day.

#### Egyptian tourism minister to arrive for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Egyptian Minister of Tourism Mamoud Biltaji is due in Amman Monday on a three-day official visit. A Ministry of Tourism spokesman Saturday said here that Dr. Biltaji will hold talks with his Jordanian counterpart Mohammad Adwan and representatives of the tourism sector, the Aqaba Region Authority and the Jordan Ports Corporation. The talks, according to the spokesman, cover cooperation in tourism activities and Egyptian-Jordanian touristic integration in light of the current political developments in the Middle East. Following his visit here, Dr. Biltaji plans to visit Israel on Wednesday, according to the spokesman.

#### QAIA arrivals area to get face-lift

AMMAN (Petra) — The arrivals area at Building Number Two of the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) will be closed as of Saturday, October 1 for a period of 50 days to allow for major renovations. All arrivals on Royal Jordanian and other airlines will be received at Building Number One during that period.

#### Lecture on property rights

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman World Trade Centre, in cooperation with the World Trade Centre of Basel, Switzerland, will host a lecture on intellectual property (patents and copyrights) at the Philadelphia Hotel Wednesday evening. The lecture will be conducted by Dr. J. Kurt Jenny.

## Scientists can bridge technology gap in coming era of peace — minister



Minister of Housing and Public Works Abdul Razzaq Ensour (centre) Saturday opens a three-day engineering conference (Petra photo)

#### Engineers Federation (AEF)

AEF Chairman Abdul Rahim Shukri outlined the federation's objectives in helping to pool Arab expertise over the past 30 years.

The three-day seminar was organised by the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) in cooperation with the Arab

Scientific research and problems in the application of scientific research and the transfer of modern technology at specialised Arab scientific institutions, said the minister who deplored at the opening session for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The seminar will review 34 working papers submitted by engineers from Jordan and other Arab states tackling sci-

entific research and problems in the application of scientific research and the transfer of modern technology at specialised Arab scientific institutions, said the minister who deplored at the opening session for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The seminar participants will tour the Royal Scientific

Society (RSS) and other like institutions.

According to Rawhi Sharif, head of a preparatory committee, the seminar was part of Arab engineers arrangements for the 20th Arab Engineers Conference to be held in Khartoum in March 1995.

## Syria's Aban Zerikly to bring the 'compelling' Bach to the RCC

By Sally Bland  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Syrian violinist Aban Zerikly has selected pieces from Bach for his concert at the Royal Cultural Centre here in Amman Sunday evening. He insists that Bach is often misunderstood and thought to be stiff and old-fashioned, but this is not the case.

"In fact," says Mr. Zerikly, "the works of Bach for solo violin are very dear to all violinists. It is interesting and even amusing to try and interpret them for an audience. It is not quite right to say that Bach is a difficult, very strict and serious composer. On the contrary, he is sometimes very compelling and easy to understand. He even wrote comic cantatas, like the one called 'The Coffee Cantata,' a light operetta about a young girl who likes to drink coffee, which was a new habit at the time. The cost of all her coffee-drinking bothered her father so much that he wanted to marry her off in a hurry."

Mr. Zerikly's ideas about Bach are part of his philosophy that one can find dynamic elements in classical as well as in modern music. He points out the limitations of having very fixed ideas about

things: "These fixed ideas prevent us from enjoying things."

Today Bach may be considered part of elite culture and mainly remembered for writing church music. Yet, as Mr. Zerikly points out: "It is known that Bach used many popular themes in his religious cantatas. The important thing is to interpret his music well. Then I think his works will be accessible and pleasing to the public. Especially in the parties which I will play on Sunday, you can find a series of short pieces that are based on original folk dances. They vary greatly in character and tempo. You can find a very peaceful one, and then a joyful one. That gives the work more energy and life."

Bach said that he wrote his music for the sake of God, but Mr. Zerikly notes: "That doesn't mean that his works are always serious or difficult. It depends on what he wants to express."

"I came here," he says, "to open doors, to meet other people, to obtain new experiences. After all, Amman is close to Damascus. In the context of my interest in teaching music, I think that the problems we face in Damascus are much the same as in all the Arab countries. So it is very helpful for me to exchange opinions and experience with people here. In fact, I had an extensive, very

useful visit to the NMC and a very interesting conversation with the director."

Sunday evening will be Mr. Zerikly's first solo concert outside of Syria, but last week he was part of the orchestra that played with Fairuz in Beirut. The concert itself and the period of practice leading up to it left a deep impression on Mr. Zerikly. He says, "it was my first time to play in this genre of music, but I think I was lucky to have the opportunity to work closely with Fairuz. I was very touched by her dedication to her art, as well as by her modesty and simplicity. I learned a great deal from that experience."



arrived with his wife, Lamia, on Thursday. In addition to playing violin, he teaches classical music and his first stop in Amman was at the National Music Conservatory (NMC) of Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

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### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### PLAY

Play in Arabic entitled "The Body Test/the Existence" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

#### FILMS

Film entitled "The Right Stuff" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (193 minutes).

Film in Arabic entitled "The Clue" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 7:00 p.m.

#### CONCERT

18th century musical concert by violinist Aban Zerikly at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

#### EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of paintings entitled "Donation" by Laila Bustami at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Exhibition of works by Farouq Zadeh entitled "Faces, Places, and Ideas" at Goethe-Institut (Tel. 641993).

Painting exhibition entitled "The Other Side of Mas-

## Plague's deadly trail seems to slow in West Indian city

SURAT, India (R) — The plague loosened its killer grip on the western city of Surat, health officials said Saturday, but the disease stalked other regions in India where terrified people had sought refuge.

The official death toll from the highly contagious pneumonic plague inched up to 36 from 34 earlier in the day. Doctors and residents in Surat, a diamond and textiles centre, estimated more than 100 people had died over the past few days.

"The number of deaths is decreasing," senior Health Ministry official A.K. Mukherjee told a news conference.



Residents carrying bare necessities and covering their faces with handkerchiefs flee the plague-hit western city of Surat. Unofficial reports said up to 300,000 people have so far fled Surat, as several Indian cities went on alert against a possible plague epidemic (AFP photo)

### Bavarians vote in state elections

MUNICH, Germany (R) — Bavarians vote in state elections Sunday in the last test of public opinion before national polls on Oct. 16, when Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition is standing for a fourth term.

Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) will be watching Bavaria closely to see whether their troubled liberal coalition partners continue a year-old series of six state and European election losses.

If the liberal Free Democrats (FDP) fail to return to parliament in Bavaria, the country's second most populous state, it could cast a shadow over Mr. Kohl's chances to stay in power after the October general election.

A recent opinion poll for the news magazine Focus showed the FDP could expect a slender three per cent in Bavaria after 5.2 per cent in the last state poll four years ago.

German law requires parties to win at least five per cent of the vote to enter any legislature, a hurdle the FDP has failed to reach in five state polls since September 1993 and in European elections in June.

### Simpson drama approaches final act

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — O.J. Simpson's murder trial starts here Monday, three and a half months after the bloody deaths of the former football star's ex-wife and her friend mesmerised Americans and launched a national obsession.

Nearly every step of the case has been televised live. Across the country television and radio talk shows have been flooded by people airing their theories on who did the killing.

Theories pose for pictures at the murder scene while social commentators point to the case as the ultimate example of domestic violence.

Another key issue in the case is racism. A CNN television poll conducted in July found that only 29 per cent of black Americans believe Mr. Simpson can receive a fair trial, as opposed to 50 per cent of whites.

The prosecution's decision not to seek the death penalty appealed some who fear Mr. Simpson is being railroaded, but Joseph Lowery, the black president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, says the trial will still be a test of racial attitudes in the United States.

"You have a black male and two dead white persons," he said. "I'm not accusing anybody, I'm simply raising a question."

Simpson is accused of stabbing to death his ex-wife, Nicole Simpson, 35, and her 25-year-old friend, Ronald Goldman, outside her condominium. He has denied the charge.

Municipal Commissioner Balwant Singh told Reuters that 65 patients had recovered and been discharged from the state-run civil hospital where victims were quarantined.

The number of people being treated for the airborne disease, which is spread between humans from contaminated breath or sputum and attacks the lungs, was steady at about 290.

"The situation has not improved in terms of admissions but improved in terms of deaths," Mr. Singh said.

Daksha Jaspant of the hospital said: "Today the situation is better. The deaths are much less."

An outbreak of the less infectious bubonic plague had struck some 61 people east of Bombay but officials said it had been brought under control with chemical spraying and antibiotics.

But the fact the disease had moved hundreds of kilometres raised worries victims would appear elsewhere.

Haji Mahmood Pardawala, state vice-president of the Babajan Samaj Party, said he had warned Gujarat's chief minister that floods had killed large numbers of animals

which were lying dead in puddles of water, raising the risk of an epidemic.

"At least 300 people have died," Mr. Pardawala said. "People living in shanties have cremated the bodies of their relatives without any death certificates. They never bothered to go to the doctor because they couldn't afford to."

Newspapers said Bombay, Delhi and other major cities had virtually run out of the antibiotic Tetracycline.

### Myers survives shake up at White House

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Embattled White House spokeswoman Dee Myers went straight to President Bill Clinton to get her head off the chopping block and came back with even more direct access to the Oval Office Friday.

His decisions came at a time when the administration has been rocked by a series of staff problems including the resignation of several high-level advisers involved in the Whitewater case.

Whitewater refers to the ongoing investigation of the Clinton's involvement in land deals and campaign contributions by a savings and loan bank in Arkansas where he was state governor.

Mr. Panetta said that "good judgment has not always been exercised," an apparent reference to widely criticised contacts between the White House and Treasury on Whitewater.

Other top-job announcements included close presidential adviser George Stephanopoulos being officially named as Mr. Panetta's executive assistant.

Former Communications Director Mark Gearan will take up the new post of strategic planning director, reporting directly to Mr. Panetta.

Rod Stewart and baseball players Vince Coleman and Darryl Strawberry.

Johnnie Cochran, who has represented Michael Jackson, courtroom legend F. Lee Bailey, and Mike Tyson's appeal lawyer Alan Dershowitz are also on the team.

Mr. Bailey, who represented Albert De Salvo in the Boston Strangler case, is expected to join Shapiro in the courtroom, while Mr. Dershowitz remains behind the scenes.

So far, the defence has tried to focus attention on arcane DNA evidence, which may or may not prove admissible in the jury trial.

They suffered a setback when Superior Court Judge Lance Ito allowed most of the physical evidence seized by police from Mr. Simpson's \$5 million estate, his business office and his car in the days after the killings.

Their next test will be jury selection from a pool of 1,000 which starts Monday and could last weeks. Opening statements to the jury probably will not start until November.

The trial is expected to be one of the most-watched in U.S. history. But Judge Ito, angered by inaccurate reporting by one Los Angeles television station, has threatened to pull the plug on broadcast coverage.

"I am contemplating terminating the media coverage in this case," Judge Ito said Friday, later explaining that he meant radio and television coverage.

Mr. Kok said she appeared to be concerned by the matter.

They are led by Robert Shapiro, whose other clients have included Marion Brando's son Christian, singer

"Patients are coming in at the early stages of the disease so the mortality rate is lower," a resident doctor said. Outside the hospital virtually all shops remained closed. Most people outside wore handkerchiefs, scarves, surgical masks or towels around their faces to shield against bacteria.

A senior government official in the capital New Delhi said it had been confirmed that the plague was transmitted to Gujarat state north of Bombay by a migrant worker who contracted the disease in neighbouring Maharashtra.

Heavily guarded vans carrying health workers passed out hundreds of thousands of antibiotic tablets in Surat.

One health worker said he was beaten up by a mob wielding hockey sticks when he ran out of supplies Friday. "I'm more scared of the mob fury than the plague," he said.

"Demand for Tetracycline is so much that everyone wants to consume it like peanuts," Mr. Singh said. "This has created anguish because of the unprecedented magnitude of the outbreak."

People continued to flee Surat here the exodus, in which some 300,000 had escaped, appeared to be tapering off.

Farokh Suleman, a 17-year-old street seller outside a packed bus terminal, said fewer people were leaving. "Yesterday people were clambering on top of the buses, virtually killing themselves," he said.

Newspapers said Bombay, Delhi and other major cities had virtually run out of the antibiotic Tetracycline.

**Woman could face death in Singapore drug bust**

SINGAPORE (Agencies) — Five Singaporeans, including a 20-year-old woman, were charged with drug trafficking Saturday and face the death penalty if convicted, authorities said.

The five, all ethnic Malays, were among nine people arrested Thursday during a raid that netted 414 grams (14.6 ounces) of heroin, said Masollah Fazal, deputy director of the Central Narcotics Bureau.

The group includes four males, aged 22 to 34, and the woman, Rasidah Hashim. Three of the other four people rounded up in the raid face lesser charges of trafficking and drug possession, and one sent to the drug rehabilitation centre.

Under Singapore's tough drug laws, trafficking in more than 15 grams (half an ounce) of heroin or 500 grams (one lb) of cannabis is punishable by death.

Singapore Foreign Minister and Law Minister Shanmugam Jayakumar said Friday that 76 people, half of them foreigners, had been banned in the island republic since the death penalty for drug offences was imposed in the 1970s.

Singapore ignored diplomatic and pressure-group appeals this week and executed a 39-year-old Dutch engineer for drug-trafficking Friday.

Johannes Van Damme, arrested at Changi Airport on Sept. 27, 1991, became the first Westerner to hang in Singapore for a drug offence.

The hanging Friday of the Dutch businessman has cast a "grey veil" over the Netherlands' relations with Singapore. Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok said in the Hague Friday night.

He said the Dutch government had summoned the Singapore chargé d'affaires Friday to emphasize the "profound distress" caused by the hanging of Mr. Van Damme.

Mr. Kok said it was impressed upon Charge d'affaires Lim Iseli Kheng Hua that on both emotional and ethical grounds the Netherlands could not accept the decision to go ahead with Mr. Van Damme's execution.

Mr. Kok said the hanging demonstrated the cultural gap between the two countries. He said he had urged Ms. Lim to consider ways of bridging the gap by putting an end to "these particularly inhuman judicial procedures."

Mr. Kok said she appeared to be concerned by the matter.

They are led by Robert Shapiro, whose other clients have included Marion Brando's son Christian, singer



The body of a plague victim is brought to the New Civil Hospital in Surat (AFP photo)

### Sinn Fein leader leaves for U.S.

DUBLIN (R) — Gerry Adams, head of the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein, left Dublin Saturday for a two-week tour of the United States during which he is sure to capitalise on the group's ceasefire and rile the British government.

But Protestant politicians and peace workers said they wanted to ensure he did not repeat propaganda barbs.

Mr. Adams, building on new-found respectability following an IRA ceasefire now three weeks old, is trying to build up his international image and garner support for Sinn Fein's peace strategy for Northern Ireland.

Waved off by cheering well-wishers, Mr. Adams told

a brief news conference at Dublin's airport that he thought Britain was "inviting" its way towards talks with his group. He hopes the United States will bring pressure to bear on London.

"I believe the British government understand totally the IRA's intentions," Mr. Adams said. "I think what we have here is suffering by (Prime Minister) John Major. I think he's engaged in tactical manoeuvring."

Soon after his arrival in Boston Mr. Adams will meet top Irish-American Senator Edward Kennedy. Since Fein said Mr. Adams will also meet business and political leaders and address meetings of Irish-Americans. He will visit Hartford, Connecticut; Detroit, Michigan; Cleveland, Ohio; New York; Philadelphia; Washington; San Francisco and Los Angeles.

### Coup rumours sweep Baku following escape from security ministry jail

BAKU (AFP) — Rumours of

an imminent coup have swept the Azerbaijani capital Baku following Thursday night's escape from the National Security Ministry's jail of four top political opponents to Azerbaijani President Gaidar Aliyev.

In an interview with state television late Friday, Mr. Aliyev confirmed the escape of former Defence Minister Rahim Gaziyev, his former deputy Baba Nasirli, the former commander of the Lachin region Arif Pashayev and the leader of the self-proclaimed Talysh-Mugan Republic in the south of the country Alifram Gumbatov, from the high security jail.

The first three escapees were imprisoned following the fall of Lachin and Shusha to Armenian forces in May 1992 while Mr. Gumbatov, previously the commander of armed forces in Azerbaijan's Lenkoran district neighbouring Iran, was jailed for attempting to establish an ethnic Talysh republic from the high security jail.

The escape comes at a time of increased political tension in the republic, as Mr. Aliyev faces not only difficulties from the country's opposition parties and Russia, but also from inside his own government.

All the escapees have connections with Azerbaijan's nominal prime minister, Suret Huseinov, the army colonel from the northeast town of Garjia whose military coup in 1993 was backed by Mr. Aliyev to come to power.

According to diplomatic sources in Baku, Mr. Aliyev's political sidelining of Mr. Huseinov, originally given control of Azerbaijan's security ministries but now left, in

spite of his title, virtually powerless, has embittered this former director of a wool processing factory.

One diplomat however

saw Mr. Huseinov's full involvement in last Tuesday's signing ceremony of the multi-billion U.S. dollar oil contract as a sign of better relations with Mr. Aliyev.

"I've been in this prison and I know there is no means of escape unless the highest authorities in the ministry allowed it," said Nizati Ibrahimli, the general secretary of the moderate opposition Musavat Party.

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The Musavat Party are themselves against political demonstrations held by other opposition parties such as the People's Front, who were expected to demonstrate in Azadlig Square Saturday.

"It's wrong to destabilise the situation," said Mr. Ibrahimli.

Support for the opposition, as Mr. Ibrahimli himself admits, is weak. According to one diplomat: "Before, the Popular Front could get half a million people on the street but their late demonstration on Sept. 10 was only 2,000 strong."

However, there is much popular social and economic discontent. The day after the oil contract was signed with the Western consortium, oil and gas workers threatened to go on strike over poor pay and conditions.

While observers believe the four-month-old ceasefire in the disputed territory of Nagorno Karabakh (over which Azerbaijan has fought a six-year-war with neighbouring Armenia) and the clinching of the oil deal strengthens Mr. Aliyev's hand politically, opposition to Mr. Aliyev inside and outside the regime could yet bring about the coup so long talked about in Baku.

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Russia may be widely supported by Chechens, who still speak glowingly of Imam Shamli's holy war against the Russian empire in the 19th century, but many are grimly realistic about the benefits of "independence."

Mr. Aliyev's nationalist drive has been sporadic. The Lenin statue has been pulled down from its heavy marble pedestal in Grozny's Revolution Square, but just a block away, a Soviet-era plaque still commemorates the "heroic" Communist street fighting in 1918.

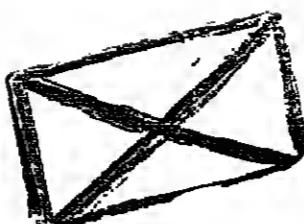
The identity crisis even extends to the traffic police, whose blue uniform is identical to that worn on the streets of Moscow. "Ah, but they're still Chechens inside — sheep in wolves' clothing," said 25-year-old businessman Bork Hadji.

The exodus of Russians fleeing the Russian blockade on Chechnya and fighting between Moscow-backed rebels and Mr. Dudayev is nearly at a standstill. Nearly all their watches on Moscow time and people literally can not agree on the time of day.

And despite his efforts, Mr. Dudayev, a mous-tached former Soviet nuclear bomber pilot, has far from purged Russian influences.

There are now between 150,000 and 220,000 Russians in the country of 1.2 million people, about half the number during Soviet days when one in three residents

# World News



JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1994 5

## 3rd body pulled from Hong Kong plane wreck

HONG KONG (R) — A third body was recovered Saturday from the submerged wreckage of Hercules transport plane that plunged into Hong Kong harbour, killing at least three people.

A crew of 12 was aboard the plane at the time of the crash Friday just moments after takeoff on the aircraft's third flight in 13 hours.

Three people are still missing and feared drowned. Six others are in hospital, one critically injured.

The flight recorder has not yet been recovered from the wreckage in Kowloon Bay and arrangements were being made to salvage the broken fuselage of the 12-year-old plane with heavy-lift crane.

The airport, with its single runway jutting into the harbour off densely populated Kowloon, was closed for two hours following the accident. Fifty-two outbound flights and 39 incoming flights were delayed with two others cancelled, a government spokesman said.

All 12 on board were Indonesians. The Jakarta-based British chartered 1100-30 transport plane had just returned to the British



Firemen carry an injured man out of an Hercules transport plane after take off (AFP photo)

colony to drop off Hong Kong police, prison service and immigration officials who had accompanied 33 Vietnamese boatpeople deported earlier in the day.

But Hong Kong's Secretary of Security Alistair Asprey said the accident would not halt Hong Kong's plan to continue deporting Vietnamese migrants.

A spokesman for Hong Kong's Civil Aviation Authority said it was too early to speculate on the cause of the accident.

Friday's crash marked the third time in six years that an aircraft has skidded off the single runway at Hong Kong's ageing airport and

into the heavily polluted waters of the harbour. It was the worst incident since a Trident operated by China's CAAC plunged off the runway into Kowloon Bay in 1988, killing seven.

The cramped airport, which dates from before World War II, has one of the world's busiest runways, sandwiched between the harbour and teeming high-rise residential estates of Kowloon City.

The Indonesian-operated Hercules was taking off for its home base Jakarta and had reached an altitude of 60 metres when it suddenly flopped into the harbour.

The Hercules planes, a type which has been in service since 1952, was operated by Pelita Air Services of Indonesia and sub-chartered by Heavylift Cargo Airlines Ltd., a unit of Britain's Trafalgar House Plc.

## N. Korea to allow inspections once pact agreed

GENEVA (R) — North Korea indicated Saturday it would open up its atomic sites to full inspection once trust had been built up with the United States and both sides had agreed on a pact to restructure its nuclear industry.

The United States and its allies have long suspected that North Korea had in the past secretly siphoned off nuclear material from its one operational reactor to use in developing a crude nuclear device.

The Vienna-based IAEA, the United Nations nuclear watchdog, Friday renewed its call for inspection of two sites where it believes there could be evidence of nuclear arms development.

Mr. Kang's comments were seen as illustrating Pyongyang's willingness to comply eventually with IAEA agreements, to run in parallel with a multi-billion dollar operation to supply the isolated state with new reactors.

The deal may also hinge on an accord between Washington and Pyongyang — bitter adversaries since the 1950-53 Korean War — to open up diplomatic missions in each other's capitals.

"We have never recognised special inspections," he declared.

## Bosnian Serbs prevent U.N. patrols in weapons ban zone

## Bosnian Serbs prevent U.N. patrols in weapons ban zone

SARAJEVO (R) — Defiant Bosnian Serbs have refused to let U.N. peacekeepers verify banned guns have been removed from around Sarajevo despite new sanctions and the threat of air strikes the U.N. said Saturday.

Military spokesman Koos Sol told journalists in Sarajevo the Serbs, angered by the destruction of one of their tanks by NATO warplanes, blocked special U.N. verification patrols from the Sarajevo weapons exclusion zone.

Mr. Sol said the checks "could not go on" although the U.N. has warned it may call in NATO air power unless all illegally deployed guns are shifted from the 20-kilometres radius zone around the city.

Sarajevo Airport was on alert and no flights were planned Saturday after the Serbs said they could not guarantee the safety of relief planes which fly low over their guns when taking off and landing.

Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) forces were still firing at the airport and at United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops in spite of the NATO attack on the T-55 tank.

It was hit by warplanes after a French peacekeeper was seriously wounded by Serb fire Thursday.

The NATO intervention and the imposition of new U.N. sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs were part of intensified efforts to make them comply with U.N. resolutions and to agree to a big peace plan for Bosnia.

The sanctions agreed Friday ban foreign travel by political and military leaders of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb Republic and trade with the territory.

At the same time, the U.N. Security Council eased sanctions against rump Yugoslavia, restoring international air and sporting links, in return for Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's military blockade of the Bosnian Serbs.

With Belgrade's allies in



Ambassador Sergei Lavrov (2nd left), the Russian Federation's permanent representative to the United Nations, votes in favour of a Security Council resolution suspending some sanctions levied against the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro for its role in the Bosnian conflict. The resolution was approved with 11 yes votes and two abstentions. Rwanda's permanent representatives, Ambassador Bakuramtsia Manzi (right), was one of those who abstained (AFP photo)

Moscow also out of patience with the Bosnian Serbs, they are virtually friendless in their confrontation with the big powers while U.S. pressure mounts for the lifting of a U.N. arms embargo against their Muslim foes.

Washington has set the Bosnian Serbs a deadline of Oct. 15 to accept the peace plan. It is encouraging the U.N. and NATO to strictly enforce the weapons exclusion zones imposed to protect Muslims from their adversary's military superiority.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said: "We're going to be watching Sarajevo very carefully and urging UNPROFOR in the strongest possible terms to enforce the exclusion zone." BSA Commander General Ratko Mladic, a bellicose hardliner, responded to the pressure with a threat to retaliate against NATO and the U.N. chiefs who ordered the destruction of the tank.

The U.N.'s lightly armed forces and NATO aircraft are vulnerable to attack by the Bosnian Serbs who hold thousands of UNPROFOR soldiers as virtual hostages and are equipped with anti-aircraft missiles.

The Serbs anticipated the imposition of new sanctions by ruling out any further discussion of the peace plan until it was redrawn by the big power contact group which prepared it.

The plan divides Bosnia almost equally between the Serbs and a federation of Muslims and Croats. Serbs would be obliged to give up a third of the territory they control after 29 months of fighting.

The U.N.'s sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro were imposed in May 1992 to punish Mr. Milosevic for arming and organising the Bosnian Serb war machine as old Yugoslavia disintegrated.

A trade and oil embargo which have helped wreak economic havoc on them will remain despite the easing of some sanctions as a result of Mr. Milosevic's backing for the peace plan.

Deputy Yugoslav Foreign Minister Nikola Cacinovic said the relaxation was a "small step compared to the big moves made by Yugoslavia... we hope the Security Council will make a move towards complete lifting with more determination now."

The Security Council has allowed the reopening of Belgrade Airport and Podgorica Airport in Montenegro to international flights once the secretary general is satisfied the blockade of the Bosnian Serbs is working.

Residents of Serbia and Montenegro heaved a sigh of relief Saturday as the United Nations lightened the embargo against them, but many said the move was unlikely to relieve the difficulties of their daily lives.

The Tanjug news agency said that "the Security Council has taken a first step towards repairing its own mistakes and has reintegrated Yugoslavia into the international community."

Although the "good news" announced by all Belgrade's radio and television stations early Saturday did not lead to an explosion of joy in the streets, passers-by said they were pleased that the "ice was broken" and said they hoped that "better days" lay ahead.

But for many of Yugoslavia's 10.5 million inhabitants who often find it difficult to meet their basic requirements after two years of sanctions, the move will not change much in their daily lives.

## Death toll rises to 22 in Philippine mudflows

PORAC, Philippines (R) — Mudflows thundering down the slopes of Mount Pinatubo volcano in the Philippines have killed at least 22 people and forced more than 78,000 to flee, relief officials said Saturday.

Rescue workers recovered four more bodies from villages near the volcano which were battered by mudflows Friday in the districts of Porac and Bacolor in Pampanga province just north of Manila, the officials said.

Fresh mudflows, in some places up to 12 ft (four metres) high, hit both districts Saturday forcing thousands more people to evacuate their homes.

No further deaths have been reported, officials said.

Among the latest evacuees was a month-old baby boy who had apparently been

buried in mud.

Mudflows have been a constant threat since Pinatubo erupted in 1991, dumping millions of tons of ash and debris.

"That was thought up some time ago," he told

Zaire will not be another Haiti — Japanese minister

GOMA, Zaire (AFP) — Japanese peacekeepers in Zaire will consider whether to open fire to defend aid workers or other threatened people on a "case-by-case" basis, Defence Minister Tokuhiro Tamazawa told AFP Saturday.

Asked what his troops would do if confronted with the sort of situation which saw U.S. troops stand by in Haiti earlier this week as a man was clobbered to death, he said: "We are here for the humanitarian operation and we expect that such things will never happen. The soldiers can fire only in self-defence."

Mr. Tamazawa did not comment directly on the rift or refer to his having been sacked as the king's traditional prime minister.

The official programme still described Mr. Buthelezi as "traditional prime minister to King Zwelithini."

Township around the port city of Durban and Stanger were quiet earlier Saturday.

The settlements had been wracked by political fighting among Zulus divided in loyalty to the ANC and Inkatha who had apparently been

assassinated.

No incidents were reported, but violence monitors said clashes between those who headed the king's court and Mr. Buthelezi supporters could happen after the rally.

Another service, also to be

brought up.

President Nelson Mandela, African National Congress (ANC), which was Inkatha's chief rival in the violent period leading up to April's historic all-race elections in South Africa, had called on its members to stay away from the rally.

The rift between the conservative Buthelezi and King Goodwill and King Goodwill is seen as benefiting the ANC, with King Goodwill moving closer to the ANC camp. But there are concerns that violence could erupt among rival factions in the nine-million strong Zulu tribe, South Africa's largest.

Violence has eased since the elections but about 15,000 people have died in the past decade in fighting largely spurred by rivalry between Inkatha and the ANC.

Streets were teeming with people and some arrived while Mr. Buthelezi was speaking for festivities around the monument where the Zulu warrior king's kraal was situated.

No incidents were reported, but violence monitors said clashes between those who headed the king's court and Mr. Buthelezi supporters could happen after the rally.

Another service, also to be

brought up.

His interrogation was pre-

ceeded by that of the silver-

haired and suntanned Arma-

ni, 60, whose ready-to-wear

garments, renowned for their

simple lines, cost up to

\$10,000.

Italian News Agency (ANSA), quoting judicial

sources, said the House of

Armani was suspected of

paying about 100 million lire (\$66,000) in kickbacks.

An arrest warrant was

issued last week against Mr.

De Camillo by magistrates

who suspect Kryzia of paying

a \$260,000 bribe.

Mr. Di Pietro, Italy's most

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spearheaded the probe into

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Recently, designers Kryzia

and Gianmaria Buccellati

have been quizzed as part of

the investigation, as was San-

to-Versace, brother of fabio-

verso guru Gianni Versace.

Earlier Saturday, oil compa-

nies executive Luciano De

Camillo turned himself into

the elite "clean bands" pool

of graft-busters to answer

their allegations that he

helped Kryzia's company set

up a system to pay kickbacks.

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## Jordan Times

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## Going the extra mile

**THE DECISION** by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to visit the Middle East by the beginning of October to reactivate the Syrian-Israeli track of the peace talks indicates that progress is expected. The gap between Tel Aviv and Damascus on the major two issues of withdrawal from the Golan and normalisation of ties seems to be narrowing, prompting Mr. Christopher to come to the area to push for a breakthrough in apparently stalemated negotiations.

What adds credence to the speculation that something is brewing on the Syrian front is the flurry of Israeli political activity on the Golan Heights. There has been talk recently in Israel of compensating Israeli settlers when the time becomes ripe for dismantling Jewish settlements on the Syrian lands. Even the Likud leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, is no longer viewing vacating the Golan as a taboo and instead insisting on keeping all of the Golan Heights as only a "starting" point for the negotiations with Damascus. The Likud's earlier conditions for either general elections or a referendum before withdrawal from the Golan are not expected to raise practical obstacles should Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President Assad succeed in reaching a peace deal through U.S. mediations by the end of this year. Given President Assad's commitment for total peace in return for a complete Israeli withdrawal from Syrian territory, the gap between the two countries is anything but unbridgeable.

Whether American diplomacy is able to convene a high-level meeting, presumably between the foreign ministers of the two countries on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly meetings in New York, remains to be seen. Such a meeting, symbolic as it may be, would certainly help warm the atmosphere of negotiations between the two. Yet the Syrians are determined on hearing a commitment first from the Israeli side for a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights in accordance with U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. The Israeli side, led by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, might just use the opportunity to declare such an intention at the General Assembly. Should that be the case, a real breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli front would be made.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Saturday decried lack of coordination among the Arab parties involved in the peace process with Israel, saying that the Madrid conference seems to have divided rather than gathered the Arab parties or unified their stand. Mahmoud Rimawi said that it is regrettable that relations among these parties are frozen or lukewarm, something which can by no means help the Arab Nation regain its usurped rights. It is regrettable also to see the peace process going along four rather than one track, with some of them moving forward faster than others. The writer said that the four Arab governments involved in the peace process should realise that the Arab people in Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Syria have a common denominator and their interests are one and the same; and they should therefore work towards streamlining their stand and pooling their efforts to arrive at the common objectives. It is hard to explain the present situation in which, said the writer, Arab parties are continually drifting away from one another the closer they move towards a deal with Israel.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dusoor Saturday said that the cost of living in Jordan has become unbearable while unemployment rates continue to grow every day. Problems facing Jordan on the domestic front are so many and so serious; and the government is called on to embark on practical steps to address the situation, said Tamer Al Adwan. We do not expect the government to apply Socialism neither do we expect it to play the role of Robin hood — taking away the wealth of the rich to give to the poor — but we expect rationalising public expenditure as well as applying social justice, said the writer. Our government, like any other in the world, cannot end the country's crisis with a magic but it can and should act in unison and in a team to find solutions to the chronic problems, said the writer. He said that the public feels that each department is striving to increase state revenues regardless of the public interest.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

## Are confidential negotiations in progress?

LOOKING AT the surface only, we may conclude that the Jordanian-Israeli peace process is going nowhere. But it seems that there is much more than meets the eye.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister and the intellectual engineer of the peace process, insists that peace negotiations with any Arab country should take place at distinct levels, one in the open, the purpose of which is to show a commitment to peace in front of TV cameras for all the people to see and accept, and the other in secret to exchange concessions away from the glare of the TV cameras and other media which may limit the ability of the negotiators to move, and may harden positions and prevent decision-makers from backing off on previously declared positions which were meant only as a starting point in the bargaining to maximise results.

At the same time we notice that three years of active Jordanian-Israeli negotiations in the open failed to produce more than a preliminary agenda which was hesitantly signed on Sept. 14, 1993, while hinge achievements and a major breakthrough were made in a fast manner and crowned in the Washington Declaration. It is evident that this progress did not take place suddenly but was the outcome of a confidential track, the results of which were transferred to the official track, which appeared to have suddenly moved after a long period of stalemate.

Now we find that the official track of negotiations which took place at the two sides of the Dead Sea and at the shores of Tiberias are stagnant with no results worth mentioning. Yet the Jordanian people are told to rest assured that the peace process is doing fine and that the results are promising and the right decisions are being made to safeguard the best interests of the country, and the well-being of the people.

Putting these seemingly contradicting facts beside each other, namely the insistence of Israel on a secretive course

of negotiations, the breakthrough of July 1994, the stagnation in the formal course of negotiations, and the assurances which Jordanians recently received from their top leaders, then we can simply conclude that the real action is not that which we watch live at the TV screens, nor what Fayez Tarawneh, head of the Jordanian delegation is telling the media after each session. The most important thing takes place somewhere else without any noise.

In the meeting of the Jordanian journalists with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, I asked the premier directly whether a secretive track of negotiations existed. He did not confirm nor deny the assumption, but he mentioned meetings and talks that are taking place outside the ordinary negotiations. Therefore, the conclusion of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel within a few months could not be ruled out if the secret negotiations are, as we expect them, progressing faster despite the waste of time in the official negotiations.

Should the Jordanians worry that we may end up with a bad treaty, secretly cooked? I don't think so. The Jordanian rights and conditions are well-known and defined, no Jordanian official can accept less. We were told that 385.7 square kilometres of our land were seized by Israel and must be returned. No responsible Jordanian official can afford to accept 385 square kilometres and give away the remaining fraction.

Similarly we were told that we have the right to receive 100 million cubic metres of drinking water from Tiberias being our share in River Jordan. No responsible official can settle for less. As far as Yarmouk River is concerned, all Israeli objections and reservations against the implementation and international financing of Al Waha Dam must be lifted. Other problems related to Yarmouk River will be worked out with Syria separately.

## Important movement on Syrian track

By G.H. Jansen

Rabin asserted that an initial withdrawal from the Golan would be "marginal" followed by a three year probation period. For the Syrians this offer was merely grotesque and they rejected it.

However, suspecting that "something" was going on, hardliners in Israel opposed to an withdrawal increased their well-organised and noisy protests backed by the Likud opposition party in parliament.

Since Mr. Rabin has only a narrow majority in parliament, it did not take very much to convince it that pushing ahead with concessions on the Golan would almost certainly lead to its loss in the next election in 1996.

Accordingly, Israel is now vigorously back-pedalling away from even the appearance of concession. Hence the statement by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, a dove to Mr. Rabin's hawk, that there could be a marginal withdrawal before the elections but that any major withdrawal could only come three years after the election, that is in 1999. Which, for the Syrians, is utterly ludicrous.

The Syrians, always wary of Israeli duplicity, left themselves an escape hatch by saying that the present peace process was only one option, from which Syria could pull out. That would, virtually, mean the end of the process.

## Corruption probes fuel fratricidal French race

By John Folain

Reuter

PARIS — A spate of corruption probes rocking France's political establishment is fueling a backstabbing climate poisoning the race for next year's presidential elections.

The main victims are in the ruling coalition, which is being torn apart by the rivalry between two undeclared candidates — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, both of the conservative Rally for the Republic (RPR).

This week alone, two of Mr. Balladur's ministers have had to deny corruption allegations.

Suspicion that the allegations were being driven by politics surfaced at a two-day meeting of RPR parliamentarians in the eastern city of Colmar, which was dominated by the right's fratricidal war.

On the first day of the meeting on Thursday, a newspaper said Youth and Sports Minister Michele Alliot-Marie was under investigation for allegedly receiving payment from a pharmaceuticals firm for fictitious consultancy work.

One party spokesman hinted heavily that this was part of the infighting between the two presidential hopefuls.

"There's nothing new in the report. The question is who has an interest in making this come out?" she said, indicating that the answer was the Balladur camp because Minister Alliot-Marie is very close to Mr. Chirac.

According to the conservative daily Le Figaro, the rough-and-tumble scuffling by undeclared candidates in advance of the 1995 campaign has created a poisonous atmosphere in the coalition.

"People watch each other, people can't stand each other. Knives are being sharpened backstage. It's become a thieves' kitchen," said the paper.

Industry Minister Gerard Longuet is under pressure to quit for allegedly underpaying for building work on his holiday villa in Saint-Tropez.

Communications Minister Alain Caenon res-

## China's reformist road looks safe from a Soviet-style breakup

By Lyman Miller

WASHINGTON — Current opinion on China has an end-of-an-era tone, a sense of coming dynastic change. Deng Xiaoping has turned 90. In recent years, as Mr. Deng has retired from his official posts, China-watchers have maintained a death watch, expecting his imminent demise to set in motion political transition and perhaps disorder.

Some expect the sort of vicious factional conflict over succession that is typical of Communist states, leading quickly this time to the collapse of the Communist Party. In its place, some see the outbreak of democracy, others the imposition of military authoritarianism in the name of maintaining order. For yet others, there is a prospect of the breakup of China, following the example of the Soviet Union.

This is probably a mistake. China is different from the Soviet Union, and our view of it should not be coloured too much by what happened there. Remember, it was only a few years ago that China was seen not as the repressive, reactionary Communist political fossil it seems today but rather as the front-running reformist state. It seemed at least possible that China might succeed in building a new, market-driven economy out of its failing Stalinist planning system. China, not the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, seemed ripe for liberalising evolution.

Since then, resurgent party reformers have steadily pressed ahead, laying on the agenda key institutional changes. These include banking and fiscal reform, revamping

China's foreign trade system to conform to international standards, and corporatising the money-losing state enterprise system. They were ratified at the highest party levels last October. Their endorsement shows that the party leadership is not paralysed and without a clear sense of policy direction.

Second, the resurgence of economic reform over

of Mr. Deng, the party elders whose disagreements dominated politics in the 1980s are a declining force. Death has already thinned their ranks. Four of the eight key elders died in the past two years, all from the conservative wing. The remaining elders are rarely heard on any issue. The key elder, of course, remains Mr. Deng. Attention in China's media to his rare public appearances and views seems orchestrated to reinforce present reform policies and to spotlight the roles of front-line leaders in preparation for his passing.

Last, the central leadership has not lost the means to control the provinces. Assertions of provincial autonomy, in which the provinces ignore Beijing and go their own way, rest on economic trends and are exaggerated.

In short, China's present top leadership comprises an activist leadership that is not weak, fragmented and waiting passively for Mr. Deng's passing or its own demise. The Communist regime indeed faces daunting problems of transforming China's economic system and governing a rapidly changing society. These tasks entail unpredictable challenges that may well overturn the regime in the end. But leadership paralysis, inflexibility, passivity and divisiveness are not likely to contribute to that outcome if present trends continue.

The writer is a professor of China studies at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. This comment is reprinted from the Washington Post.



## Haitians at U.S. camp in Cuba still fear return

By Jane Arraf

Reuters

**GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba** — While Haitians line the streets of Port-au-Prince to cheer American soldiers, thousands of Haitian refugees languishing in a U.S. base in Cuba say they won't go home until President Jean Bertrand Aristide is back.

Many of the refugees, physically and psychologically scarred by years of political violence and seething with frustration, say they will not feel safe even then.

In the first visit by foreign reporters to Guantanamo Bay since Washington agreed with Haiti's military leaders on the weekend to avert an invasion to restore Mr. Aristide, refugees Thursday said it would take more than the arrival of U.S. troops to convince them to return.

"Even if Aristide comes back we will not be safe," said Desire Jean Phaniel, holding a picture of his horribly-disfigured wife, fatally burned in a fire believed set by paramilitary thugs in a Port-au-Prince slum last December.

Suze Dijon, dressed in street clothes for the last photo before she died, was sitting on the edge of an iron hospital bed trying to smile for the camera.

But the 29-year-old woman's face had melted, leaving only a smooth sheet of plastic-looking skin where her left eye had been.

"One of my babies died with her," Mr. Phaniel, who fled Haiti four months ago, told Reuters.

Other refugees, noting military leader Raoul Cedras had reneged on his last promise to the United States to step down, said they would return after making sure that Mr. Aristide did.

Giant loudspeakers broadcast a translation from the camp's Creole radio station of the populist president's latest address calling for Haitians to rebuild their country.

Some of the refugees expressed disbelief when told that the last-minute agreement brokered by former



RUNNING FOR LIFE: A Haitian woman in Port-au-Prince tries to get on a bus leaving the capital to the countryside where Haitians believe they will be safer (AFP photo)

d'Hauault who fled para-military gunmen. "We love our country but if the military stays we cannot go — a major complaint of Mr. Aristide."

"They will keep their guns?" asked a bewildered school teacher from the southern town of Anse

U.S. base surrounding the bay in eastern Cuba. Across the way, another 20,000 Cuban refugees crowd another tent city thrown up after a Miami-bound exodus from the other side of the island.

The U.S. military has ex-

panded the tent city onto Guantanamo Bay's golf course and evacuated dependents of U.S. personnel because of security fears.

Both sides of the camp have erupted in sporadic violence.

Military police arrested

100 of the Haitians Monday after a protest over food turned into a stone-throwing riot which injured three American servicemen, military officials said.

Other camp officials said Monday's riot began after Haitians learned that the

agreement did not call for Gen. Cedras to leave the country.

"I understand the frustration level is high in all the camps," Commander Rick Thomas told reporters.

"I think the temperature in the camps has gone down

some but I think the frustration level is going to stay there because Guantanamo Bay, Cuba is not where they want to be."

The camp is hot, crowded and smelly. With no schools and no recreation, many of the refugees lie for hours at a time on their cots set up in rows of tents on the airport tarmac. Meal time, with what the refugees call a monotonous diet of rice, beans and some meat, is a focal point of the day.

On Thursday, crowds of Haitians inside the fenced compound surrounded foreign visitors, some shaking with rage at what they said were terrible conditions in the camp. "Look at my shoes," two of them screamed, waving broken sandals at reporter.

"President Clinton, nobody can stay in Haiti," we ask for political asylum," read the scrawled messages on cardboard signs held up by Haitians behind a barbed wire fence. One man displayed machete wounds on his arm and stomach.

U.N. refugee officials said they would resume finding out which Haitians wanted to be immediately returned home.

"Many might wait and see what happens but there are indications that if Aristide comes back, they will want to return," said Ralf Gruenert, of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He said he could not estimate the number.

Over 5,700 refugees have chosen to go back to their troubled homeland rather than stay in Guantanamo Bay since the United States began diverting boat people picked up at sea to the U.S. base in June. Virtually all have been trying to get to Miami.

U.S. military officials said they could not say when the United States would consider Haiti stable enough to forcibly repatriate all the refugees.

"Aristide will come back but what about everything that's happened?" said Anna Edouersen, 20, who said her mother and brother had been killed by the paramilitary and she had no home to go back to.

## Election result won't affect nuclear German plans

By J. Terence Gallagher  
Reuters

**BONN** — Germany's main political parties have drawn their battle lines over nuclear energy but the country's policy is unlikely to change quickly, whoever wins the Oct. 16 general election.

The opposition Social Democrats (SPD), who hope to gain power for the first time in 12 years, are committed to abandoning nuclear power, but party leaders are thinking in terms of decades, not months.

"To build a new energy supply structure beyond nuclear energy will take more time than many of the environmentalist politicians among us had hoped," Lower Saxony Premier Gerhard Schroeder said recently.

"It will take at least 30 years. It cannot be done in less time."

Mr. Schroeder has been earmarked to head a new "super-ministry" combining economics, energy and transport if the SPD ousts Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition.

Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) favour a gradual expansion of nuclear power and hope to implement a much-debated plan to store nuclear waste and reprocess fuel rods domestically.

Without reprocessing of its own, Germany has to pay dearly to have the work done in Britain and France.

The Free Democratic Party, junior partners in the coalition, has said a withdrawal from nuclear power would be difficult, especially since Germany is also trying to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels which pollute the atmosphere.

For more than 10 years, SPD state governments have delayed construction and blocked the opening of nuclear plants, including a

## Jimmy Carter — from president to peacemaker

By David Nagy  
Reuters

**WASHINGTON** — After his triumph in securing an agreement to avert an invasion of Haiti, Jimmy Carter now looks a strong favourite to win the Nobel Peace Prize, which is due to be announced in October.

Talks between the SPD and the ruling coalition aimed at reaching a consensus on the nuclear issue broke down last October and subsequent talks on issues such as the Gorleben dump have ended without agreement.

Even if the nuclear power plants were shut down tomorrow, the waste problem would remain for thousands of years.

All German political parties are agreed on the need to find an appropriate site for permanent storage of nuclear waste," said Heinrich Seesing, a CDU member of parliament and spokesman on energy issues.

Monika Griefahn, Lower Saxony's environment minister who has been earmarked for the same post in an SPD government in Bonn, said her party recognises that Germany needed permanent storage of nuclear waste.

"But Gorleben is geologically unsuitable and a search must be made for an appropriate site," she told reporters.

Although committed to nuclear power, the CDU has been influenced by widespread concern about the environment.

"The CDU also wants increased security and safety for reactors," said Mr. Seesing. If returned to office, it plans to amend the atomic power law to provide for greater safety.

Mr. Carter, who was

president from 1977 to 1981, met in June with North Korea's now-dead Stalinist leader Kim Il-Sung over Mr. Kim's refusal to allow international inspectors to verify that plutonium from a nuclear power plant was not being diverted to make nuclear weapons.

The former U.S. president, whose achievements in the White House fell short of his own expectations, has earned a formidable reputation as a globe-trotting mediator and peacemaker intent on defusing international crises.

In 1976, when America was still reeling from the Watergate scandals, Mr. Carter campaigned as a champion of the people who would restore integrity and competence to government. He formally took office in January 1977.

The former Georgia governor breezed out of nowhere to win the Democratic Party nomination, defeat incumbent Republican President Gerald Ford and take office as a kind of modern populist hero.

In 1980, with the economy crumbling and the Iran hostage crisis inflaming passions, he was swept from office by Ronald Reagan in a defeat of humiliating proportions. Mr. Reagan took office in January 1981.

The conservative Repub-

lican, pledging to restore America to world respect and leadership, won 44 of the 50 states, including all of Mr. Carter's native south except Georgia.

Mr. Carter has been nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize, at least the fifth time he has been nominated, because of his many peacemaking efforts. Some analysts speculated his efforts in Port-Au-Prince could clinch him the prize, which will be announced October 14 in Oslo, Norway.

Mr. Carter, who was

image with that of busy elder statesman and diplomatic mediator, using skills honed at the White House in promoting historic Israeli-Egyptian peace talks — and winning far more public affection than he ever enjoyed as president.

"People who thought he was a disaster in the White House regard him as a model elder statesman," columnist Mary McGrory wrote of his rebound. "He goes everywhere, doing good."

Indulging a passion for "crisis resolution" and operating as a private citizen from his Carter Centre in Atlanta, he promoted peace talks between Ethiopia and Eritrean rebels and headed an observer team at 1990 Nicaraguan elections that shifted power from the Sandinistas to the opposition.

He led a similar observer delegation at elections in Panama in 1989 and lent authoritative voice to charges the ballot had been sabotaged by strongman Manuel Noriega.

By 1993, he was an honored visitor at fellow Democrat Bill Clinton's White House, backing Mr. Clinton up in his efforts to win passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement and helping celebrate the Israeli-Palestinian peace breakthrough.

Mr. Carter also regularly donated his services as a skilled carpenter to build housing for the poor. With wife Rosalynn he wrote a 1987 best-seller, "Everything to Gain: Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life."

Looking back from the vantage point of these retirement projects, the driven and stiff-necked

leader of old seemed mellow and happy in a 1991 television film, "Citizen Carter."

Asked to assess his own presidency, he said: "He tried hard, attempted the right things, was not always successful. Maybe he was naive in many ways."

He added: "The biggest failure we had was a political failure. I never was able to convince the American people that I was a forceful

and strong leader."

He left office with one epic foreign policy achievement — the 1979 Camp David accord between Egypt and Israel — plus a modest list of domestic reforms.

He brought Egypt's President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to Camp David for grueling negotiations Sept. 6-17, 1978. Later, when the accords

seemed to be unravelling, Mr. Carter saved the day by flying to Cairo and Jerusalem for personal shuttle diplomacy.

The treaties ended a state of war between Israel and Egypt, provided for Israeli withdrawal from Egypt's Sinai peninsula and established diplomatic relations. They were signed at the White House on March 26, 1979.



U.S. President Bill Clinton (right) listens as former president Jimmy Carter explains details of his successful negotiating trip to Haiti, the island (AFP photo)



# Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1994 9

Financial Markets		Jordan Times	
		In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank	
		U.S. Dollar in International Markets	
Currency	New York Close	Bahrain Close	Date: 23/9/94
Sterling Pound	1.5750	1.5770	23/9/94
Deutsche Mark	1.5465	1.5488	23/9/94
Swiss Franc	1.2845	1.2865	23/9/94
French Franc	5.2875	5.2935	23/9/94
Japanese Yen	98.05	97.83	23/9/94
European Currency Unit	1.2316	1.2350	23/9/94

1 USD Per 100  
\* European Openings = 8:00 a.m. GMT

Exchangerate Interest Rates Date: 23/9/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.75	5.00	5.51	5.87
Sterling Pound	5.25	5.75	6.37	7.51
Deutsche Mark	4.81	4.87	5.06	5.50
Swiss Franc	3.75	3.81	4.12	4.50
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.65	6.12
Japanese Yen	2.18	2.12	2.25	2.43

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

General Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 24/9/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6960	0.6960
Sterling Pound	1.0966	1.1021
Deutsche Mark	0.4492	0.4514
Swiss Franc	0.5404	0.5431
French Franc	0.1315	0.1320
Japanese Yen	0.7084	0.7119
Dutch Guilder	0.4007	0.4027
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0446	0.0448
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

\* Per 100  
Other Currencies Date: 24/9/1994

Currency Bid Offer

Bahraini Dinar 1.6300 1.6400

Lebanese Lira 0.040945 0.042025

Saudi Riyal 0.1853 0.1871

Kuwaiti Dinar 2.3150 2.3490

Qatari Riyal 0.1900 0.1920

Egyptian Pound 0.2000 0.2150

Omani Riyal 1.7870 1.8150

UAE Dirham 0.1888 0.1898

Greek Drachma 0.2080 0.3135

Cypriot Pound 1.3450 1.4935

\* Per 100

## \$4b U.S.-Pakistan energy deals signed

ISLAMABAD (R) — U.S. businessmen signed energy agreements with Pakistani industrialists Saturday envisaging an investment of about \$4 billion.

A total of 16 agreements, whose signing was witnessed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, were concluded during a visit to Pakistan by U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, who headed a large U.S. business delegation.

The accords, worth more than an original estimate of \$3 billion, were signed despite recent tensions between the United States and Pakistan over Islamabad's alleged nuclear ambitions.

The United States cut off all military and new economic aid in 1990 over the nuclear issue, blocking the transfer of F-16 fighter jets

already paid for by Islamabad.

Mrs. Bhutto, in brief remarks after the signing ceremony, called the agreements a landmark in private sector investment in Pakistan by its government.

"Today Pakistan is a country which offers macro-economic stability, and macro-economic stability comes about if a government has the public support to take bold measures that are necessary to put the economy on track," she said.

Mrs. Bhutto said Saturday's agreements envisaged an investment of nearly \$4 billion. She gave no exact figure.

Pakistan says it has acquired the capability to make nuclear weapons, but has taken a policy decision not to do so.

## Arab Gulf states seek compromise with EU on oil tax

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states, which produce nearly one fifth of the world's oil output, are to bold more negotiations with the European Union (EU) to find a compromise to a planned energy tax, a senior Gulf official was quoted as saying.

"We are still at the stage of dialogue with the EU based on the fact that there should be a link between environment and development," said Sheikh Fahim Al Qassimi, secretary general of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

"In case any taxes are imposed on oil, their impact on development in other countries should be considered. We are studying all these issues with the EU and we hope we will reach a compromise formula," he told the UAE daily Al Ittihad.

GCC states and other oil producers have strongly attacked the proposed carbon tax on the grounds it will depress demand for crude and hit their economies.

The tax, which could reach \$10 per imported barrel of oil by the year 2000, hinges on approval by Japan and the United States.

The EU has defended the tax as a means of protecting the environment by containing carbon dioxide emissions, blamed for global warming.

GCC officials are concerned the tax could bit their oil exports, and one gloomy scenario estimates they could lose \$17 billion a year.

"We repeat our stand that this tax will harm the GCC economies because oil is our main source of income," Sheikh Fahim said.

"We also differ with them on their concept of the tax, which they say is designed to protect the environment."

CAIRO (R) — The size of Egypt's cotton crop will fall about 23 per cent this season, to about 264,000 tonnes of lint compared with 343,400 tonnes in 1993, the government newspaper Al Ahram said Saturday.

The decline is due to both a reduction in the area planted and a fall in the average yield, according to figures attributed to agriculture ministry consultant Saad Nasar.

For seed cotton, the forecast is about 314,000 tonnes, compared with 416,000 last year, he said.

The first estimate after the harvest is complete will be announced on Oct. 23.

In this growing season, which is now drawing to a close, Egyptian farmers

planted 303,000 hectares (748,721 acres) with cotton, against 317,490 hectares (917,961 acres) last year.

Most of the rest of the land was planted with rice or maize, Mr. Nassar said.

The ministry expects the average yield of lint cotton to be between 851 and 894 kilogrammes per hectare (2.47 acres), averaging 872 kilogrammes compared with a 60-year record of 926 kilogrammes last year, he said.

Opposition newspapers have said the cotton crop has suffered badly from a decision to limit aerial spraying and reduce the amount of pesticide used to combat the boll weevil.

But Agriculture Minister Yousef Wali said last week that the crop was excellent

and the yield among the highest ever.

Domestic consumption is about 340,000 tonnes of cotton a year but some of that is cheap cotton imported so the country can export more of its own high-value long-staple cotton.

Exports in the cotton marketing year which ended on Aug. 31 reached 371,000 bales, or 121,000 tonnes, and exporting officials do not expect the fall in production to cause problems with meeting export demand in the year 1994/5.

"We think our... stock will be enough to cover all requirements domestically and for exports," said Samir Anis of the state-owned Holding Company for Cotton.

## Japan struck by discount fever

TOKYO (AFP) — Notorious for being the most expensive country in the world and a frustrating market for foreigners, Japan is in the grip of a fierce retailing war that has ignited "discount fever" among the nation's long-suffering consumers.

The price war has begun," declared Shiroaki Yamauchi, head of marketing for the Yamaya distribution chain, which sells alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks at prices 50 to 50 per cent less than in traditional stores.

"For a long time, Japanese consumers had no idea of prices outside Japan," said Mr. Yamauchi, who offers lower prices by eliminating the middleman and selling straight to the public. "But paying three times more for the product is quite stupid, they now realize this."

Bolstering the retail buckancer is a study released last week by Japan's Economic Planning Department that found food in Tokyo to be 1.88 times more costly than in Paris and 2.5 times more expensive than in London.

In some cases, with the high-valued yen making differences more acute, prices can be 300 to 400 per cent higher. A 33-centiliter (10-ounce) bottle of Japanese beer costs 225 yen (\$1.25) in a Tokyo supermarket, compared to the equivalent of 40 to 50 yen for local beer in the United States or Europe.

A liter (1.8 pints) of milk costs 200 yen in Japan compared to 60 yen in a typical European supermarket. The price of beef in Japan is simply astronomical, reaching \$120 per kilogramme — roughly eight times the price in Europe. As for rice, a dietary staple here, the much-fleeced Japanese household has to pay two to six times more than in other countries.

But the power of large retail monopolies to dictate prices may be over.

It has been breached by fierce competition among a few distributors that are hammering down prices, particularly on imported products.

"The era in which manufacturers held sway over consumer is definitely over," predicts Isao Nakachi, president of the giant food distribution company Daiet, which in 1992 was one of the first to open hostilities with low-priced orange juice, followed by cheaper beer this year.

Orange juice fell from 350 yen a liter to 168 yen, while Japanese beer is now in competition with beers from the Netherlands, the United States, Belgium and China, which are half the price.

The result is that foreign beer grabbed three per cent of the market for the first five months of this year, up from 1.7 per cent last year, although the discounters are now offering Japanese beer at cut rates.

Daiet continued its price offensive in March by selling imported camera film at 166 yen for a 24-frame roll, compared to 529 yen for competing Japanese brands.

The price-slackers owe much of their success to international pressure on Tokyo to bulldoze through regulations and practices that have cosseted Japanese shopkeepers for decades.

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## Ipswich down champions United

LONDON (AFP) — Ipswich's Paul Mason shocked champions Manchester United with two goals in their 3-2 topsy-turvy win at Portman Road in the English Premiership Saturday.

But Newcastle remained top of the Premiership despite drawing 1-1 at home to Liverpool.

The toast of England last year as they won the Premiership and F.A. Cup, were humbled by two first half strikes from the former Aberdeen player.

United were on top early on, but Mason knocked the ball in at the far post on the quarter hour to open the score. Mason beat stand-in keeper Gary Walsh again just before half-time — a great left foot effort which Walsh could only get a finger to.

But Manchester United's Eric Cantona pulled a goal back in the second half. Paul Scoles, one of coach Alex Ferguson's younger players then hit the equaliser to complete what seemed a great escape.

But in the 81st minute, Canadian Frank Yallop crossed from the right for former Tottenham player Steve Sedgley to score the winner. Robert Lee, of leaders Newcastle, put them ahead in

the 50th minute against coach Kevin Keegan's former club, Liverpool.

At 0-0 at half-time, Lee collected the ball on the edge of the box after the break and turned into the top left hand corner from an acute angle. But Liverpool's veteran striker Ian Rush hit a 25-yarder which boomed and swerved to equalise.

Keegan, who tied up the 2.25 million-pound (\$3.4 million) signing of of Derby striker Paul Kitson before kick-off, now only has a two-point cushion over Blackburn opposite number Kenny Dalglish.

Blackburn's Alan Shearer scored twice, once from the spot, against Aston Villa and Chris Sutton got the other in a 3-1 win. Villa's Nigerian Ugo Ehiogu pulled a goal back in the last minute.

Tottenham Hotspur's leaky defence cost them dear once more as they fell 4-1 to Nottingham Forest at White Hart Lane. Ilie Dumitrescu brought Spurs back into the game against Nottingham Forest to equalise in the 32nd minute. 20 minutes after Steve Stone had put the Premiership newcomers ahead.

Teddy Sheringham had a chance of putting Spurs ahead on the stroke of half-

time, but again missed from the spot. A header from Brian Roy after the interval brought Tottenham a 2-1 lead before he sidefooted a third.

Then Norwegian international Lars Bohnen chipped home to finish the scoring and keep their unbeaten record.

Dion Dublin kept up his remarkable scoring record since his 2-million move from Manchester United to Coventry.

He scored his third goal in three games after only two minutes to put Phil Neal's team ahead against Southampton at Highfield Road. But two goals from Ian Dowie and another from Hans Ekholm gave Saints a 3-1 victory.

Chelsea's Paul Furlong earned his side a 1-0 victory in their derby at Crystal Palace.

Alan Reeves's goal for Wimbleton was enough for a 1-0 win at QPR, and Niall Quinn and Uwe Rosller gave Manchester City a 2-0 win at home to Norwich.

Everton's Gary Ahlert put Everton ahead in the second half against Leicester, but Mark Draper equalised for Leicester for a 1-1 final scoreline.

## English fans praise peaceful World Cup

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — England did not have a team at the World Cup finals in the United States. But its fans, often the worst behaved, praised the organisers for producing one of the best tournaments ever.

Launching a conference aimed at organising the 1996 European Championship, which England hosts, the (English) Football Supporters Association (FSA) Friday congratulated the Americans for producing "one of the best tournaments in recent memory."

"They spent millions of dollars promoting the World Cup and creating a real 'vibe' around the stadia," said the FSA's international officer, Steve Beauchamp.

## Bremen feel the heat of Bundesliga

BONN (AFP) — League leaders Werder Bremen felt the heat here on Saturday as their rivals all won to stay in touch at the top of the Bundesliga.

Borussia Dortmund, FC Kaiserslautern and Karlsruhe all won to join Bayern Munich on nine points, two behind Bremen who had won on Friday.

Dortmund were the most impressive winners, with Swiss star striker Stefan Chapuisat and Andreas Moller both grabbing two goals in the 5-0 drubbing of visitors Stuttgart.

Moller's first came after just four minutes and Chapuisat's double in the 11th and 14th minutes killed off the game straight away.

Kaiserslautern won 3-1 at home against Schalke 04 while Karlsruhe produced a great escape with a dramatic 4-3 win at Cologne. Heiko Bonan's winner coming one minute from time after the home side had led 2-0 in the early stages.

The biggest score of the day from Borussia Moenchengladbach, who cracked seven past hapless Bochum, Effenberg scoring in the 16th and 87th minutes.

Bremen had won 2-0 against Duisburg on Friday, while Bayern Munich beat Munich 1860 3-1 earlier in the week.

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## Berger wins pole at Portuguese Grand Prix

ESTORIL, Portugal (AP) — Damon Hill used his overhauled Williams to shave 37 thousandths of a second off his provisional time Saturday, but it still left Gerhard Berger and Ferrari on the pole for Sunday's Portuguese Grand Prix.

Berger, who set the fastest time of 1:20.608 on Friday on the 4.36-kilometre Fernando Pires da Silva Circuit outside Lisbon, didn't improve on his time from Friday. But it still was good enough for him to win his second pole of the year.

Hill, needing a victory in Estoril to close within one point of idled Formula One championship leader Michael Schumacher, pushed his Williams hard Saturday, but his time of 1:20.766 was still 0.158 seconds slower than Berger.

Berger, however, is not entirely comfortable with his Ferrari.

"I had a few problems — the car is handling a bit strangely," Berger said. "I had a good lap yesterday so there was no need to take risk today and maybe hurt myself."

In an attempt to catch Berger Friday, Hill flipped his Williams near the end of qualifying, leaving the Briton shaken up but without injury.

Hill's countryman and teammate David Coulthard cut .087 of a second off his Friday time to 1:21.033 and retain his starting spot on the inside of the second row.

Mika Hakkinen was unable to improve his time but kept his McLaren fourth with a time of 1:21.251 and will be followed by a Ferrari of Frenchman Jean Alesi (1:21.517), Ukyo Katayama's Tyrrell-Yamaha (1:21.590), Martin Brundle in the other McLaren (1:21.565), and Rubens Barrichello of Brazil in a Jordan-Hart (1:21.796).

Hill's car needed a new engine, suspension, body-work and wings after his tangle Friday with the Eddie Irvine's Jordau-Hart that somersaulted the Williams into a gravel pit.

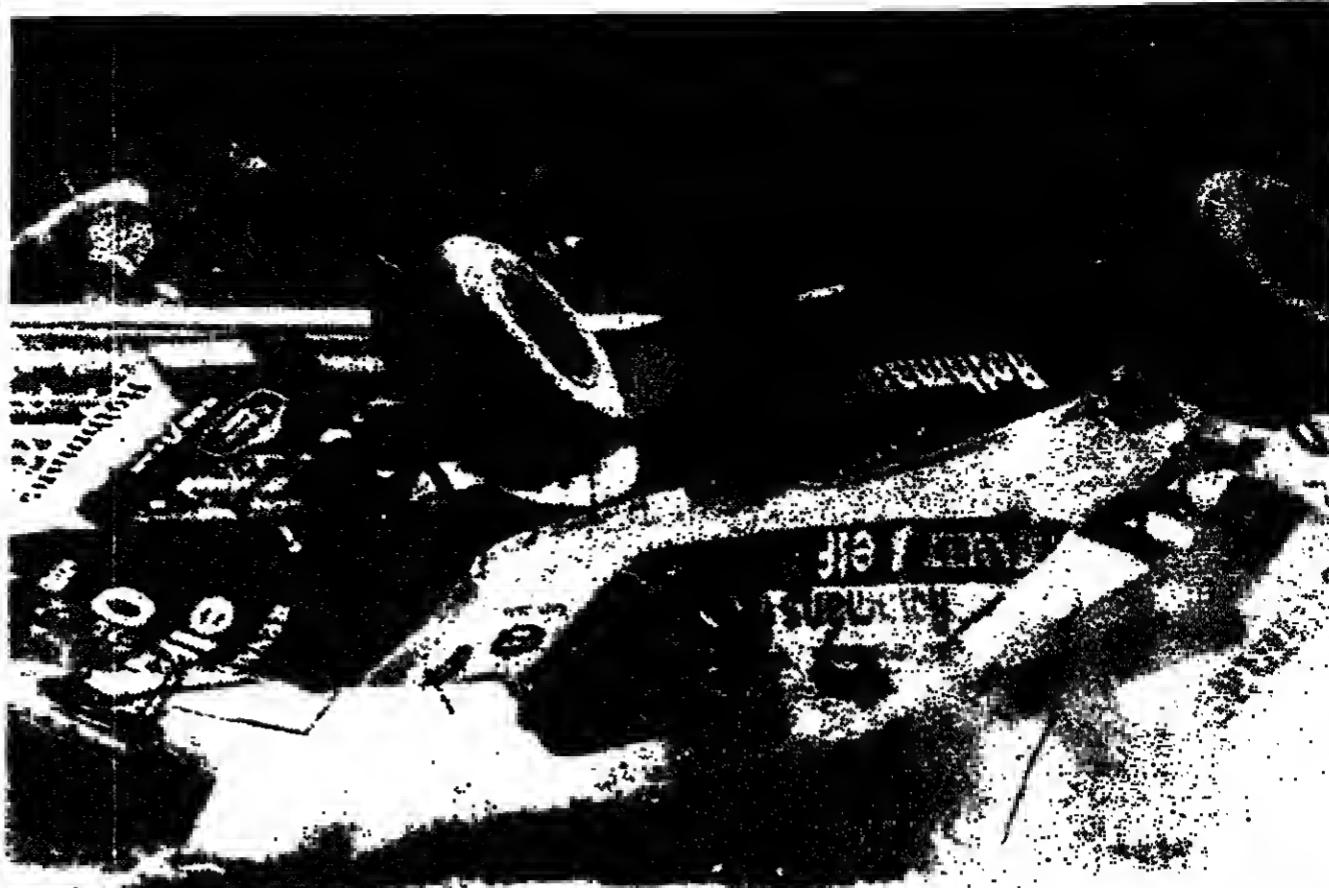
The 24-year-old Briton said he and his crew worked into the evening on the car's new setup until "we thought we were within shouting distance" of Ferrari's best time.

Hill clocked the best time in Saturday morning's practice and then was first out of the pits for qualifying. He gradually improved his time before clouds formed over Estoril.

A victory Sunday would move Hill within one point of Schumacher with three races remaining on the Formula One calendar. Schumacher is serving the second of his two-race suspension for ignoring a black flag at Silverstone earlier this season.

Although Berger is third in the points standings, he is 43 points behind Schumacher and cannot win the title. However, he is trying to demonstrate Ferrari is returning to competitiveness this season after four years without a victory.

He won the German Grand Prix in July after taking the pole and Alesi won the pole for the Italian Grand Prix two weeks ago.



The Williams-Renault driven by British Damon Hill is flung in the air after hitting Eddie Irvine's Jordan Hart during the first practice for the Portuguese Grand Prix in Estoril Friday (AFP photo)

## Al Hussein, Al Wihdat lead in first division soccer tourney

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Hussein and Al Wihdat clubs remained in the lead of the Jordan Soccer Federation first division league championship after defeating Al Jeel and Al Qadissieh respectively.

Although both teams have eight points after the conclusion of the fourth week of competition, Al Hussein beat Al Jeel 2-1 in a match held at Irbid stadium. Al Hussein's goals were scored by Muneeb Gharibeh and Fayed Yousef.

Al Wihdat also defeated Al Qadissieh 1-0 Friday. Jamal Mahmoud scored Al Wihdat's goal.

Irbid's Kufr Soom Club fell from second to fourth place after being crushed by Al Ramtha 4-0 in a match held in Irbid.

Shahab Al Hussein's Maher Sarsour scored three goals and Wa'il Katt

out only one.

**Standings after 4th week**

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Al Hussein	4	4	—	—	15	2	8
Al Wihdat	4	4	—	—	5	3	8
Al Ramtha	4	2	2	—	8	3	6
Kufr Soom	4	3	—	1	11	9	5
Al Faisali	4	2	1	1	8	3	5
Al Ahli	4	1	2	1	3	6	4
Shabab Al Hussein	4	1	1	2	7	9	3
Jazirah	4	1	1	2	3	4	3
Arabi	4	1	1	2	3	8	3
Jeel	4	—	1	3	3	8	1
Al Qadissieh	4	—	1	3	4	10	1
Karmel	4	—	4	—	9	9	—

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# Sports



JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1994 1

## Japan hopes diplomacy will resolve sports row

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said Saturday Tokyo was seeking to resolve a row over a visit to Japan by a top official from Taiwan through diplomatic efforts.

Japan has granted a visa to Taiwan Vice Premier Hsu Li-Teb to allow him to attend the Hiroshima Asian Games due to start Oct. 2.

The move provoked strong objections from China, which sees Taiwan as a constituent, if rebellious, province.

Murayama told reporters that Foreign Minister Yohei Kono had contacted the Chinese government to try to persuade Beijing to drop its opposition to HSU's visit.

"I think Foreign Minister Kono is making contact. We will make some efforts," he was quoted as saying by Kyodo news service.

Taiwan has said HSU would attend the Hiroshima Games to promote Taiwan's bid to host the 2002 Asian Games, the Beijing rejects the claim, saying Taiwan has not yet been selected as a candidate city.

Chinese Olympic Committee chief Wei Jizhong sent a telegramme to Hiroshima Games organiser Takayoshi Fukushima urging Japan to go back on its decision to grant a visa.

Wei said he met Olympic Council of Asia chief Sheikh Fahad Al Ahmad in Kuwait and quoted him as opposing the issuance of an Asian Games identification card to him directly about the matter.

"We are trying to reach Kuwait to try to confirm what the latest situation is, any new developments would have to come after that," he said.

China, sporting the largest delegation, has raised the spectre of a boycott if HSU attends and has warned Japan of "grave consequences" if it fails to keep HSU out.

A record 7,300 athletes and officials from 42 nations are due to take part in the Hiroshima Games.

### Palestinians pull out of games

JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Palestinians have been forced to withdraw from what would have been their first appearance in the Asian Games for lack of money, an official told AFP.

However a small delegation of administrators expect to make the trip to Hiroshima, Japan, for the event from Oct. 1-16, said the official from the youth and sports "ministry" in the Palestinian self-rule authority.

The football team hoped to take part and the draw for the games was altered at the last minute to accommodate them.

## S.Korea hopes to beat Japan in medal race

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea hopes to beat Japan in the race for medals a next month's Asian Games but harbours little hope of besting powerhouse China, officials said Friday.

"We are no match for the Chinese, but we will try hard to beat the Japanese," said Kim Chong-Duk, a performance analyst with the South Korean delegation.

South Korea, which placed second after China in the 1986 and 1990 games, hopes to win 60 to 68 of the 37 gold medals at stake in Hiroshima. In the Beijing games in 1990, it earned 54 golds.

The South will have a 756-member delegation, including 579 athletes, and compete in all but two of the 34 sports during the Oct. 2-16 games. It will not field teams in karate and kahaddi.

Team officials said they are looking to sweep the golds in archery, and also perform well in shooting and weightlifting.

## Skah wins World Half Marathon

OSLO (AFP) — Morocco's Khalid Skah won the World Half Marathon championship here Saturday in 1 hour 27 seconds, ahead of Mexico's Silva and Brazil's Ronaldo da Costa.

Is that the best line? Not by a long shot. The seven missing diamonds will break 4-3 just about 62 percent of the time. In addition, you can set up the queen of diamonds if either defender holds A K bare.

To establish and use the lone diamond will cost every one of diamonds to be lost. You can't even get the table at trick two. Win the club return, ruff a diamond, cross to the queen of trumps and ruff another diamond. When both defenders follow, you are home. Get to the board with the ace of trumps to ruff another diamond, draw the outstanding trump and cross to the ace of spades to take a discard on the good diamond. Incidentally, if a defender shows out on the second trump, fall back on finding the king of spades with East, because you will exhaust yourself of trumps the other way and not be able to enjoy the fifth diamond.

Skah, 27, and Silva, 26, ran the final kilometres of the 21,097km event in friendly mood on a course which began outside Bislett, but finished in the famous stadium.

## Pacemaking Maroof springs Ascot shock

ASCOT, England (R) — Maroof, the 66-1 outsider, sprang one of the biggest shocks in British horse racing for years when making all the running to win the Group One Queen Elizabeth II Stakes Saturday.

Ridden by Richard Hills, Maroof was seen by many as pacemaker for the better fancied Meithhaaf, the mount of Willie Carson.

But trainer Robert Armstrong insisted Maroof was in the race on his own merits and so it proved, the four-year-old holding off 11-1 chance Barathaa by one and a quarter lengths.

French-trained Bigstone, ridden by Frankie Dettori, was a further length away in third place.

The mile (1.6 km) race was among the most hotly contested Group One events in Europe in years. Between them eight of the nine runners had won 16 Group One races, including six classics.

Racing experts had given realistic chances to all eight but none considered the ninth runner, Maroof, whose record before Saturday read just three wins from 12 races, all below Group One standard.

Sheikh Hamdan's manager Angus Gold admitted to being "a bit stunned," but added: "Robert Armstrong was riden by Frankie Dettori, who has always loved Maroof and the horse has been unlucky this year."

Maroof led by about two lengths into the straight where it was thought the colt would be quickly swalloed up.

But when Distant View, the 2-1 favourite, threw down his challenge with 300 metres left, Pat Eddery's mount was quickly repulsed.

Barathaa, ridden by Michael Kinane, and 10-1 chance Bigstone then emerged from the pack, but Maroof galloped on resolutely to send bookmakers home the happiest of men.

As for the senior women

## Qatar wins marathon event at the 5th International Arabian Horse Home Show

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Obeid Gbadier of the United Arab Emirates won the first place in the marathon event closing the five-day International Arabian Horse Home Show held at the Royal Stables.

Ghadier crossed the 43-kilometre race on "Khalil" in 1:43.41. Amer Thamer of Iraq came in second on "Jebid" in 2:04.28. United Arab Emirates Ali Ammery on "Nawasi" placed third with 2:06.47.

In the junior competition, Faisal Shardoun on "Tiber" won first place covering 22 kilometres in 51:56 minutes. The second place went to Ghaita Sa'eb on "Karo," clocking 55:29 minutes and the third place went to Sal'an Kharabsheh on "Su'ad."

The marathon competition started east of Al Muwajeh and ended at Amra Castle in the desert. More than 40 horses competed in the competition that lasted seven hours.

Her Royal Highness Princess Iman Bint Al Hussein Friday clinched the first place in the jumping championship, followed by Zaid Sharab. In the "spoon and egg" and the "kangaroo" competitions Nadeen Abu Jaber came in first in both competitions and Princess Iman was in second also in the two events.

The "musical chair competition" was won by Zeid Sharab and Abeer Khatib was second.

The supreme male competition was won by "Jerash" and "Frengage" of Jordan.

In the mare produced groups, "Amperia" won first place, followed by "Amada Malaha" of Qatar. And in the Sire Produce groups "Skidby" won first place and "Jerash" came in second.

In the senior male championship, Jordanian horses dominated the show. Jordan's "Skidby" and "Zowar" won first and second places respectively.

In the junior Liberty Championships, "Inbo Angoli" won the first place.

As for the senior women



His Majesty King Hussein Friday presents the first place prize to Zaid Sharab in the musical chairs competition. Below, one of the horses



competition, Qatar's "ampair" won the first place and Jordanian horse "Ziadeh" placed second.

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As for the senior women

The five day event saw more than 170 horses from nine countries including Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, France, Britain, the United States and Jordan, competing in the fifth International Arabian Horse Show.

The show which was organised by the Royal Jordanian Arabian Horse Association, headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, aimed at exposing Arab culture and traditions and to demonstrate the endurance of Arabia horses.

the fifth set. They saved three break points in the four game.

But the Germans were not finished. They broke Olhovkiy's serve at 4-4.

From then on it was an even battle until the 16th game, when the Russians had to save three match points on Olhovkiy's serve.

"If you don't use your opportunities, you lose," Olhovkiy said.

With Braasch serving to keep Germany's hopes of defending the cup alive, the Russians swept the tiebreak 7-1.

The match turned late in the third set. The Germans gained two break points on Kafelnikov's serve, Braasch scored a death threat late Thursday and appeared listless during his loss to Volkov.

Organisers stepped up security by bringing more bodyguards to the Rothenbaum arena, bodyguards also shadowed Stich's wife Jessica.

Germany needed to win

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The Russians immediately broke Braasch's serve when the German sent a volley wide and took command of

the net.

Kafelnikov served for the match and faced a break point, but Braasch sent a weak volley attempt into the net.

A service winner gave Russia its second match point and Kafelnikov thundered a serve that Braasch returned into the net.

## Russia defeats Germany to reach Davis Cup final

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Russia reached the Davis Cup final for the first time when Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovkiy won Saturday's doubles to give their team an unbeatable 3-0 over defending champion Germany.

The Russians beat the German pair of Michael Stich and Karsten Braasch 6-4, 7-6 (7-1), 3-6, 6-7 (3-7), 10-8, ending the hopes of the three-time champion.

Kafelnikov beat Bernd Kahracher and Alexander Volkov upset Stich Friday to put Russia 2-0 ahead after the opening day.

Stich decided to play Saturday although he had received a death threat late Thursday and appeared listless during his loss to Volkov.

Organisers stepped up security by bringing more bodyguards to the Rothenbaum arena, bodyguards also shadowed Stich's wife Jessica.

Germany needed to win

the third set and the German pair broke for a 1-1 lead on Kafelnikov's serve.

But the Russians broke Olhovkiy's serve again on Stich's serve, with Kafelnikov hitting a brilliant backhand diagonal shot that even escaped Stich's great reach.

There were no breaks in the second set and the Russians swept the tiebreak 7-1.

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The Germans appeared

headed to level the score when they broke Olhovkiy's serve for a 3-2 lead in the fourth set.

The Russians saved two

break points but Stich set up the third with a lob and Kafelnikov's backhand serve attempt ended in the net.

The Russians broke Olhovkiy's serve at 4-4.

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**SLEEP WALKERS**  
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**CONCORD "2"**  
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## Algiers to free Madani, Belhadj

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian authorities have promised to release shortly two leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) under house arrest, their former detainees said in an interview published Saturday.

FIS President Abassi Madani and Vice-President Ali Belhadj have been held under house arrest since Sept. 13, when the authorities freed them from prison in a bid to promote talks on ending an extremist Muslim rebellion in the country. They were serving long sentences for endangering national security.

Three other FIS officials held with them but released unconditionally told the satirical weekly *Al Wajh Al Akhar*, "We asked the (Algerian) leadership for the (two men's) period under house arrest not to be long, and they promised it wouldn't be."

The three — Kamel Guemazi, Abdul Kader Omar and Noureddine Chigara — added that they themselves agreed to leave prison only after receiving this assurance and that they expected "the liberation of all (FIS) detainees."

A leader of the Islamic Message (MMI-Haras), Ahmad Kerfah, said he found Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj in "good health and spirits" during a recent visit with them.

Mr. Kerfah, who said the pair met with party leaders and other politicians every Wednesday, added that Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj were "determined to find solutions to the country's problems" if three conditions were met.

These were: "Rehabilitation of the FIS, total freedom of movement" for themselves, and that the FIS's consultative council he allowed to meet "with all its members."

Rahab Kehir, head of the party's leadership in exile, said FIS and its leaders "are now convinced of the need to work towards finding a solution" to the Algerian crisis.

## Yeltsin in Britain en route to U.S.

BRIZE NORTON, England (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin, heading for America with an appeal to get down to business, was greeted as an old friend Saturday by Prime Minister John Major.

Mr. Major, who met Mr. Yeltsin at the Royal Air Force Base at Brize Norton, 90 kilometers northwest of London, said the two leaders planned to discuss a range of issues Saturday and Sunday.

"We also intend to spend some time enjoying ourselves," said Mr. Major. "We have prepared the legislative base, we have prepared the projects, we have the raw materials. We're ready."

He ticked off a list of areas for investment, including the oil and gas industry, space, auto and aircraft manufacturing, pipelines and reconstructing nuclear power plants.

The Russian leader said it was time for the United States and Russia to meet on equal footing. "We have to level out our relationship — and agree upon this with the American side," he said.

"We have to become equal."

Mr. Yeltsin will stop in Seattle on his way home and tour a Boeing facility.

Although the president has a heavy schedule of political and business meetings, he and his wife, Naina, plan to make time for a yacht outing and a visit with an American family in Seattle.

Mr. Major said he and Mr. Yeltsin intended to spend time relaxing as well as holding working sessions.

"We will discuss long and short term issues — but we do intend to spend some time enjoying ourselves," he said.

Officials said the two leaders would discuss several international issues, including a United States proposal to lift the arms embargo against the Bosnian Muslims, which both London and Moscow oppose.

Russia has "categorically" rejected the proposal, while Britain is more circumspect, intending to abstain if there is a vote on the issue in the U.N. Security Council.

As aircraft bombed the Munzur mountains and Kutudere's ravine, a deeply-carved valley extending for nearly 40 kilometers and surrounded by forests, about 5,000 mountain commandos moved through the region, known as a centre for training PKK fighters, officials said.

They said they believed guerrilla leader Semdin Sakik was among the group with whom soldiers had clashed in Kutudere.

Mr. Sakik, a seasoned veteran of the 10-year-old guerrilla fight in the southeast Turkey, was recently named PKK commander of a "northern area" of five provinces including Tunceli.

The two leaders also discussed the "general situation in Russia and the future of economic reform there," a British government spokesman said.

According to a Downing Street spokeswoman, Mr. Yeltsin told Mr. Major that bilateral relations are "better than ever."



Russian President Boris Yeltsin waves to well-wishers after being greeted by British Prime Minister John Major upon his arrival on Saturday at an air force base outside London (AFP photo)

## Turkey pursues PKK rebels

TUNCELI, Turkey (R) — Turkish aircraft blasted crags of the Munzur mountain chain on Saturday on the third day of an offensive against an estimated 3,000 separatist Kurdish guerrillas in the eastern province of Tunceli.

Military officials in the region said Turkish troops killed nine Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels on Friday night during a battle with a group of about 150 rebels in Kutudere's region.

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## Rights group accuses Egypt of curbing freedom of expression

CAIRO (Agencies) — A western human rights group on Saturday accused Egypt of harassing and detaining journalists and urged President Hosni Mubarak to halt any practice limiting freedom of expression.

The statement of the Human Rights Watch-Middle East follows recent questioning or detention of several journalists and lawyers related to the government campaign to quell violence by radicals.

The letter urged dropping charges against Mustafa Bakri, chief editor of the Liberal Party daily Al Ahram who was detained and questioned earlier in the week.

Security agents released Mr. Bakri on 5,000 Egyptian pounds (\$1,500) bail after accusing him of publishing false articles in exchange for money from Iraq. Mr. Bakri can still be tried if the prosecutor finds sufficient evidence against him.

Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif, who acts as the spokesman for the president's office, could not be reached immediately for comment. Egypt's government often does not respond publicly to complaints by human groups.

The group's letter noted that Egypt is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees freedom of expression.

"Editors and journalists continue to be targeted by the security apparatus and detained and interrogated solely because they have articulated views or published

information critical of the state," the letter added.

"The recent actions taken by Egyptian security and prosecutorial authorities are clear violations of the right of free expression," it said. It added there was no justification for the government action "on the basis of national security or public order."

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"Editors and journalists continue to be targeted by the security apparatus and detained and interrogated solely because they have articulated views or published

tained since Sept. 1 on charges that he published an article criticising a recent government-backed conference on Egypt's future, the group's letter said.

Mr. Yassin was arrested and imprisoned over an article criticising "national dialogue" between the ruling National Democratic Party and opposition parties at the beginning of the year.

The latest criticism follows a statement by London-based Amnesty International earlier in the week that also accused Egypt of jailing journalists and pro-Islamic lawyers without justification.

The statement from Human Rights Watch-Middle East also complained that Egypt blocked distribution of the annual report of the Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights, which is not recognised by the government as an official organisation.

The Egyptian watchdog group has accused both the government and Islamic radicals of violating human rights in the 2½-year campaign by militants to unseat the government and install Islamic rule.

More than 410 people have died in the violence. Most of the victims have been police or militiamen, but government officials, Christians, bystanders and five foreign tourists also have been killed.

## 10 teachers in Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — A rocket slammed into Kabul University on Saturday, and hospital officials said 10 teachers were killed and several wounded.

The university, already pockmarked by rockets and its classrooms strewn with broken glass, opened last month after being closed for two years by incessant fighting between the factions who rule the Afghan capital.

"It's very bad," said Mohammad Zahir, a teacher who took some of his wounded colleagues to a nearby hospital. "We just don't know what to do."

It was not clear who fired the deadly missile.

Students had stayed home Saturday because of renewed fighting in the western suburb of Kabul, near the university.

The two small groups, claiming to represent Afghans

nistan's minority Shiite Muslims, began fighting nine days ago.

Since then more than 1,100 people have been wounded and as many as 350 people killed, according to the International Red Cross.

Insurgents, once revered as saviors for throwing out the communists in 1979, turned their weapons on each other in savage battles for power.

According to the Red Cross, 4,500 people have been killed in Kabul since the beginning of the year.

The city is in ruins and an estimated 750,000 people have fled, many of them living in refugee camps outside the eastern city of Jalalabad.

Truce halts bloodshed in Kabul

Earlier, a temporary ceasefire was called for to facilitate

mediation between the warring Harakat-e-Islami and Hezb-e-Wahdat factions.

"The Iranian ambassador asked us for a ceasefire so he could go to west Kahn to talk to Mazari," a Harakat spokesman said.

Iranian Ambassador Ghulam Reza Hadoddi was said to be carrying a message from Tehran for Wahdat leader Abdul Ali Mazari, who started a simultaneous fight with Harakat and a rival Wahdat leader 11 days ago.

The temporary ceasefire was arranged for the morning, but was generally observed from the early afternoon.

There is no word yet on agreement for permanent cessation of the fighting between Harakat and Mr. Mazari's Wahdat faction.

## Claes looks set for NATO job

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes is assured of becoming the next North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) secretary-general after his only rivals for the job either gave up or lost crucial support, alliance sources said on Saturday.

They said Norway's endorsement of Mr. Claes took all remaining suspense out of the diplomatic maneuvering to fill the chair left vacant when Germany's Manfred Woerner died from cancer last month.

"Now it's a one-horse race. There is no realistic chance at this stage that it can be anyone other than Claes," said one source.

Norway announced on Friday night it was not proposing former Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg for the job because he lacked support among NATO's 16 na-

tionalities.

In this week's national elections, Mr. Ellemann-Jensen missed out on his post, former Danish prime minister, but his opposition Liberal Party scored well.

At its congress on Saturday, the Liberal Party unanimously reelected Mr. Ellemann-Jensen as its leader.

Mr. Ellemann-Jensen told Danish radio on Saturday that for him "NATO is something special" but that he would stay in Danish politics rather than seek another international post if he did not get the alliance job.

One NATO source said he "would not bet a single cent" on the possibility of some new candidate for secretary-general emerging before Tuesday, the closing date for applications, and he could decrease his chances even

further.

## Column 10

### Gorbachev gets pension rise

MOSCOW (R) — Mikhail Gorbachev's monthly state pension has jumped from 4,000 roubles to 760,000 roubles a month but it's not quite the fortune it sounds. The former Soviet president's paycheque will now buy \$315 instead of \$166. A decree published in the official Rossiya Gazette Friday raised Mr. Gorbachev's pension to 40 times the state minimum of 19,000 roubles a month. The Commonwealth of Independent States which rose out of the ashes of the Soviet Union awarded him a pension of 4,000 roubles a month in December 1991. Then it was worth \$44, at the time a considerable sum. But it was not indexed and inflation and dramatic increases in real prices have slashed its buying power. In reality the former Kremlin leader is supported by the Gorbachev Foundation, which has numerous sources of funds, including Western institutions. He lives in comfort outside Moscow and can afford to travel abroad regularly.

### Doctor charged after hysterectomy kills foetus

LONDON (R) — A British gynaecologist will face trial after he performed a hysterectomy and removed a 11-week-old foetus from the womb of a woman who had been told she could never have had children. Reginald Dixon was charged under a 130-year-old law with carrying out an unlawful abortion on Barbara Whitten in March 1993, the Crown Prosecution Service said Friday. He will appear before magistrates in Mansfield, central England, on Nov. 16. Ms. Whitten, 35, had been trying to have children for many years but agreed to a hysterectomy to relieve pain in her womb after doctors told her she was infertile. She said she was unaware when she entered hospital for the operation.

The statement from Human Rights Watch-Middle East also complained that Egypt blocked distribution of the annual report of the Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights, which is not recognised by the government as an official organisation.

The Egyptian watchdog group has accused both the government and Islamic radicals of violating human rights in the 2½-year campaign by militants to unseat the government and install Islamic rule.

More than 410 people have died in the violence. Most of the victims have been police or militiamen, but government officials, Christians, bystanders and five foreign tourists also have been killed.

Local police investigated the case before passing its file to the Crown Prosecution Service, which has the final say in controversial cases. Dr. Dixon will be charged under the offences against the person act, passed in 1861.

Duke, Duchess of York tipped for reconciliation

LONDON (AFP) — The Duke and Duchess of York may be heading for a reconciliation, according to her father Major-Ronald Ferguson, the Daily Mail reported Saturday. He told the paper his daughter Sarah wanted to return to her estranged husband, Prince Andrew, second son of Queen Elizabeth II. "If the outside world could see them together they would fail to understand how they can be apart... I believe Sarah does love Andrew and he'd have her back tomorrow," he was quoted as saying. However, he added: "But she's concerned that he isn't strong enough to stand up for her in the face of opposition from the people at the palace and possibly from other members of the family, though not the queen. According to the major, Prince Andrew has made it clear that the door would always be open for Sarah."

Royal watchers have speculated for months about a reunion between the Yorks, but her friends have always insisted the couple remain just on good terms.

### Prince Edward pays low-key visit to S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Prince Edward, third son of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, paid a low-key visit to South Africa Friday and Saturday, the British High Commission said. A high commission (embassy) spokesman told the domestic news agency that the prince's visit was connected with the arts, but would give no further details. The queen's daughter, Princess Anne, is due to pay an official visit in November, while the monarch is expected early next year.